

Ben Ali on landmark Egypt visit

CAIRO (AP) — President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia arrived Tuesday for a three-day official visit, the first by a Tunisian head of state in 25 years, the Middle East News Agency reported. Egypt's president and Ben Ali's host, Hosni Mubarak, was at Cairo International airport to greet the Tunisian for their fourth meeting since Ben Ali came to power in November 1987. Their last summit was in Tunisia last September, when they put finishing touches on a common agreement that cancelled visa requirements for their nationals in each other's country. In Cairo, the presidents are expected to discuss regional, African and bilateral issues. Tunisia's ambassador to Cairo, Mahmoud Al Mestiri, told Middle East News Agency Monday they would also discuss the need to form a united Arab position on the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. The last Tunisian head of state to visit Egypt was former President Habib Bourguiba, now retired.

Jordan Times

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Badran meets Amnesty chief

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Tuesday reviewed with Amnesty International Secretary General Ian Martin the latest developments in Jordan, including the restoration of democratic life, the liberalisation process in the Kingdom and political prisoners. Martin paid tribute to Jordan's policies and voiced satisfaction over conditions of prisoners in the country. He praised the efforts made by those in charge of the prisoners to rehabilitate and enable them to contribute effectively in the development of their communities. Badran expressed Jordan's appreciation of the efforts made by Amnesty International to alleviate the sufferings of people irrespective of their ideologies. Badran pointed out that Jordan, by restoring parliamentary life, granting broad general freedoms, cancelling martial law, supporting the independence of jurisdiction and releasing political prisoners, had taken the first step towards responsible democracy. The prime minister said there were no political prisoners in Jordan and that any contradicting claims were irrelevant.

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Algeria to aid Hrawi

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria has agreed to send military equipment to troops loyal to Lebanese President Elias Hrawi to help him expand his control over the war-torn country, an official source said Tuesday. The source said the decision was taken after talks between Hrawi and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, the first concrete result of Hrawi's tour of members of a tripartite Arab peace committee on Lebanon. "President Chadli has ordered Algeria to provide the Lebanese army with equipment to enable it to carry out its security mission in Lebanon," the source said. He was unable to specify what kind of equipment Algeria planned to provide. Hrawi arrived in Algeria from Saudi Arabia Monday and was due to leave for Morocco later Tuesday — the third member of the committee delegated by an Arab summit last May to try to bring peace to Lebanon.

More EC aid for Palestinians

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) foreign ministers have endorsed a plan to double EC aid to Palestinians in the occupied territories over the next two years, diplomats said. The committee proposes providing \$6.6 million in 1990, rising to \$13.2 million in 1992. Since 1971 it has spent a total of about \$185 million on Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, much of it channelled through the U.N. Relief and Works Agency. Officials said the new money would be directed at social welfare, education and community institutions and stimulating economic development rather than at refugee programmes.

Israel says Fateh members captured

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel said Tuesday it had intercepted a ship off the Lebanese coast and seized two members of the Fateh, one of them a senior officer. A military communiqué said the Israeli navy stopped the ship 11 days ago and forced it to sail to Israel with all its passengers. Israel released the vessel Tuesday, letting go all on board except the two members of Fateh, which is led by Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat. Israel Radio identified the officer as Said Fanouna and said the boat had been sailing from Cyprus to Lebanon.

Soviet parliament okays property law

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet parliament Tuesday passed a fundamental law regarded as a major step towards legalising the concept of private property, long regarded as taboo in a communist society. The law on property was approved by a vote of 350 to three, with 11 abstentions, by the Supreme Soviet, the country's standing parliament, after a long and heated debate. It covers a broad range of property rights, including the right to own factories.

Tanker fire put out

BAHRAIN (AP) — Firefighters put out a blaze aboard the U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti tanker Surf City Tuesday after a 12-day battle against the flames, the owners said. A Feb. 22 blast aboard the 81,283-ton oil products tanker, one of the 11 tankers that Kuwait re-registered in the United States at the height of the Iraq-Iran war to entice them to U.S. navy protection, killed two of the 25-member American crew.

Confusion in Russian polls

MOSCOW (R) — Election run-offs will be needed in many areas of the Soviet Union because the bewildering number of candidates and programmes last weekend left many voters baffled. While reformers defeated veteran Communists Sunday in major Soviet urban centres, most seats went unfilled due to the multiplicity of candidates. There were more than 7,000 candidates in the Russian Federation. In the Ukraine 3,091 candidates fought over 450 seats and in Byelorussia 1,128 candidates vied for 310 places. In some districts as many as 20 candidates ran.

King voices satisfaction over outcome of talks with French president in Paris

Jordan, France discuss Mideast peace efforts

By a Jordan Times staff writer with agency dispatches

PARIS — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday held talks with French President Francois Mitterrand on Franco-Jordanian relations and international developments as well as Middle East issues with special focus on the Soviet Jewish influx to Israel.

The King briefed Mitterrand on Arab-Israeli peace efforts and pointed out that the massive immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel had posed a "new complication" in endeavours to arrive at a just and durable settlement to the Middle East conflict, particularly that Israel seeks to settle part of the new arrivals in the occupied Palestinian territories, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The King voiced appreciation for the French and European Community (EC) positions on the Middle East problem and noted that "these positions are based on international legitimacy," Petra said.

The King and Mitterrand voiced particular concern over

the situation in Lebanon, "underlining the need for a solution based on Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

The King briefed the French leader on the achievements of the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and called for closer relations between the ACC and the EC.

After the talks, which included a lunch hosted by Mitterrand, the King told reporters that he was satisfied with the outcome of his meeting with the French leader whom he praised as "a man of principle and a wise leader."

In reply to questions, the King described the position of Israel's dominant Likud Bloc on peace as unrealistic. He said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), whom Israel rejects as a negotiating partner, had adopted constructive stands on peace.

"I believe the PLO has adopted a positive and constructive position..." he said. "We support them with all our force. Up to now, Israel has been negative and unrealistic."

The King said an Arab summit

was needed to discuss the course of Arab issues and the future of the Arab World. But any such summit needs careful preparation, he added. "Its results should be different from previous Arab summits," he said.

The King said Israeli threats against Jordan were not new. Jordan alone can respond if it can hold out against these threats, and its record indicates it can, he said.

Earlier Tuesday, the King held talks with French Prime Minister Michel Rocard, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement on international issues and the need to find a just and durable settlement to the Middle East conflict. The King outlined the dangers inherent in the massive Soviet Jewish influx to Israel and how it threatened to undermine all peace efforts. The King's meetings here were attended by Royal Court Chief Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

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Ikhwan suggests inclusions in national charter

By Lamin Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Muslim Brotherhood, the most influential organised group in the country, demanded Tuesday that a proposed national charter to regulate political life in the Kingdom should include a goal of complete liberation of Palestine. It also appeared to demand the exclusion of leftist trends from the Kingdom's political life.

In a four-page pamphlet distributed to the press, the Brotherhood (Ikhwan), the biggest bloc in the Lower House of Parliament, advocated the total liberation of Palestine and Jihad (holy war) to confront the "Zionist threat."

"The liberation of Palestine from the sea (Mediterranean) to the river (Jordan) is an Islamic duty... the liberation of Palestine is the responsibility of all Arabs and Muslims... leaders and nations alike," the statement said. "Jihad with money and soul is the solution for preserving and defending the nation in the face of the Zionist threat," it added.

The Brotherhood's call, which amounts to a demand for the elimination of Israel, contradicts the policy of Jordan, which has accepted United Nations resolutions recognising the existence of the state of Israel.

During the run-up to the Nov. 8 general elections, Ikhwan members publicly called for allowing military operations against Israel across the demarcation line. The latest Ikhwan pamphlet, titled "The National Charter: Its basis as viewed by the Muslim Brotherhood," however, fell short of a direct call for military attacks against Israel. Nevertheless, the pamphlet did urge Arab countries to supply Jordan with financial aid and arms to defend the country.

"...Arab countries' support of the Jordanian people with money and arms is an Arab responsibility," it said. A senior Ikhwan official contacted by the Jordan Times, however, said the pamphlet did not necessarily represent "conditions" set by the Muslim Brotherhood for accepting the proposed national charter. "These are not necessary conditions, but we are certainly going to struggle to include these points in the charter," he said.

His Majesty King Hussein has repeatedly said that he intended

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Bush seeks to heal rift with Israel

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush has moved to heal a growing rift with Israel, declaring that he supported the right of Jews to live in a "united Jerusalem" whose status would be determined in a Middle East peace settlement.

Bush made the statement in a telephone conversation with Seymour Reich, president of the Conference of Presidents of American Jewish Organisations, who called to voice concern at a Bush statement over the weekend expressing opposition to Jewish settlements "in the West Bank and East Jerusalem."

The fact that Bush equated Jewish suburbs of Jerusalem with West Bank settlements provoked an immediate outcry in Israel and a defiant response from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

It was the latest in a series of clashes between Israel and Washington in the past week that appeared to endanger intense diplomatic efforts to establish a peace dialogue between Israel and Palestinians.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Bush had assured Reich that the United States supported a "united Jerusalem" whose final status would be determined by negotiations.

"The president also made clear U.S. support for Jews as well as others to live there in the context of a negotiated settlement," Fitzwater said.

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Bush also urged U.S. Jewish leaders to help to promote a pre-election dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians as soon as possible.

"This remains the surest path available to promoting a peace that would ensure Israeli security and the legitimate political rights of Palestinians," Fitzwater said. Reich, a New York lawyer who is also president of B'nai B'rith, the Jewish fraternal organisation, had called National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft asking to speak with the president, and Bush called him back.

"The president urged Mr. Reich and all those who shared his concern for the Middle East to continue to devote themselves to bringing about as soon as possible a pre-elections dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians," Fitzwater said in a statement.

Bush also reiterated U.S. support for the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel "and made it clear that the United States will oppose any efforts designed to frustrate this human right."

Bush also signalled again that the United States will back a \$400-million loan guarantee for housing the Soviet refugees "provided the United States and Israel can work out assurances that satisfy the United States on settlement activity," Fitzwater said.

(Continued on page 3)

Bonn reports Polish border compromise

BONN (Agencies) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl Tuesday dropped his insistence on linking German recognition of Poland's borders to war reparations, backing down on an issue that has split his government and strained relations with his allies.

His centre-right coalition government then approved a compromise formula designed to reassure Poland that a united Germany would respect its post-war borders.

"Mistakes were made on all sides, including by me," Kohl told journalists later.

The Bonn initiative coincided with comments in Moscow by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who said any German plans to recover lost territory would be "fraught with serious consequences."

In East Berlin, the foreign ministry said East and West Germany would begin preparatory talks on unification this week.

There was no immediate reaction from Poland to the West German compromise, which envisages the East and West Ger-

man parliamentarians calling for a treaty between Warsaw and a united Germany formally recognising Poland's Oder-Neisse border.

West German Chancellor Minister Rudolf Seiters said Kohl and his coalition partners decided at a 3½ hour crisis meeting to put a joint motion to the Bonn parliament calling for both German parliaments to pass identical resolutions as soon as possible after East Germany's first free elections March 18.

The motion would be put to the West German parliament on Thursday, Seiters told a news conference.

"The border question should be settled in a treaty between an all-German government and the Polish government that sets the seal on the reconciliation of the two peoples," he said, quoting from the motion.

In Moscow, Gorbachev and East German leader Hans Modrow affirmed Tuesday that a unified Germany cannot belong to North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

Israelis keep up disguise tactics

OCUPPED GAZA (R) — Israeli security forces disguised as Arabs drew their guns and fired in the air when youths started stoning a passing army jeep in occupied Gaza City Tuesday, Palestinians said.

Witnesses said about 30 security men — their faces masked by chequered Arab headresses — revealed their identity at the city's main produce market, firing their guns to disperse the stonethrowing youths.

Nearly uniformed troops also opened fire with teargas and rubber bullets. Four Arabs were treated at hospital for beatings and teargas inhalation. The Israelis made at least three arrests.

Israeli military censors made deletions from this report.

Israel deploys disguised security men as part of its battle against the Palestinian uprising. Police closed the area for about 90 minutes. Clashes erupted between Israeli forces and high school students.

Palestinian sources said at least five people were shot and wounded elsewhere in the Gaza Strip. About 15 girls who threw stones at Israeli troops near Khan Younis were taken to hospital after inhaling teargas.

Military sources said police Monday had removed the headless body of a Palestinian woman from her Hebron home in the West Bank.

Sara Riyashi, 35, and cut off her head after she was suspected of prostitution and collaborating with Israeli authorities.

Israel Radio said another body was found on Tuesday, hanging from a tree in Beit Hanoun in the Gaza Strip. Palestinians told the radio that the dead man, Fahmi Shaaban Azameen, 23, was suspected of collaborating.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, Israeli forces demolished the home of prisoner Jaber Muhammad Hawish who was arrested four months ago.

Military sources said Hawish was a member of the Red Eagle strike force, one of the Palestinian groups that enforces directives of the clandestine uprising leadership.

DFLP averts split but rift persists

By Lamin K. Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The left-wing Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) has managed to avert a split in its leadership but differences remain within its ranks over the moderate peace strategy adopted by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Well-informed Palestinian officials, reached by telephone in Algiers, told the Jordan Times that the DFLP leadership, which met in the Algerian capital last week, decided to refer "political and organisational differences" to the general congress of the movement which is expected to meet before the end of the year.

They said that the differences between supporters of DFLP leader Nayef Hawatmeh and followers of his deputy Yasser Abed Rabbo reached "a bone-breaking" stage during the meeting in Algiers but the two sides managed to avoid a break.

The crisis, which has been brewing for more than a year and a half over the PLO's peace strategy, reached a critical point last week when the meeting of the DFLP central committee failed to reach a political and an organisational agreement.

However, Hawatmeh supporters said "a minimum agreement was reached," but conceded that differences persisted between the two sides.

The main differences between the two sides stem from disagreement over Palestinian tac-

Kabul says coup failed amid conflicting reports

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Afghanistan's defence minister and guerrillas attempted to overthrow President Najibullah's Soviet-backed government Tuesday but failed, Radio Kabul said.

But rebel sources, Western diplomats and the official Soviet news agency reported fighting in the Afghan capital.

Radio Kabul, monitored in Islamabad, reported General Shah Nawaz Tanai, a leader of the 1978 coup that installed a Marxist government, plotted with fundamentalist guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar to try to overthrow the government.

It said the coup attempt was crushed, Tanai escaped and Najibullah's forces were in control. The official state radio also called for Afghans to join the military and help capture Tanai "dead or alive" and for his followers to surrender.

Hekmatyar announced support for the coup attempt and asked his fighters to help rebellious army units.

"We support the action of the

army officers against the Kabul regime," Hezb-i-Islami leader Hekmatyar told a news conference in Islamabad.

"We have told the Mujahedeen to support all (army) units involved in this action," he said. Najibullah himself declared that the coup had failed, TASS news agency reported.

Najibullah's statements were made in a speech read on Kabul Radio, TASS reported from Kabul, where planes attacked the presidential palace and heavy fighting broke out on the streets earlier in the day.

"The address pointed out that calm has been preserved across the country. The coup has been prevented," TASS said.

But, sources among the Pakistan-based guerrillas waging a 12-year-old war against the government said rebel commanders inside Afghanistan reported widespread fighting in Kabul.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov earlier told reporters in Moscow there was fighting at Kabul's air-

port and a possible coup attempt. Western diplomats in Islamabad "aid they heard of aerial bombardments by the Afghan air force, tank movements around the Soviet embassy and fighting around the presidential palace. They did not know if the tanks were defending the embassy or attacking it."

The diplomats, speaking on condition of not being identified, said they received their information from numerous sources.

Details about the coup attempt were sketchy. International operators in Moscow said telephone lines to Kabul were damaged and calls would be difficult to place.

Radio Kabul said Tanai escaped and security forces were searching for him and his followers.

The radio said Najibullah had appointed Aslam Watanjar, the country's interior minister, to replace Tanai. Both Tanai and Watanjar helped lead the 1978 coup that sparked the rebellion by the Mujahedeen.

Israeli coalition moves closer to disintegration

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's uneasy coalition government, in turmoil over Middle East peace proposals, moved closer to disintegration Tuesday.

The immediate cause was an ultimatum from the rightist Likud Party of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir demanding that its Labour partner agree to exclude the 140,000 Palestinians living in Arab Jerusalem from elections planned for the occupied territories.

Likud also said Labour must accept that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) could not be involved in any way in proposed talks between Israel and Palestinians.

Labour Party ministers responded by giving Shamir one day to accept a U.S. plan for talks with Palestinians or see the coalition government collapse.

"In practical terms by tomorrow the issue must be decided," Energy Minister Moshe Shahal said after an emergency party meeting of labour cabinet ministers.

The 12-member policy-making

inner cabinet is due to hold the decisive debate Wednesday.

"If there will not be a vote or if the vote goes against a positive response to the (U.S.) questions, it will mean the end of the national unity government," Shahal said.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the pivotal figure in the broad government, stressed to reporters after the meeting the need for quick, decisive action: "I see an urgent need in convening the inner cabinet and taking a decision."

Vice-Premier and Labour leader Shimon Peres also said Labour may leave the coalition cabinet. "They (Likud leaders) didn't relate to any question that (the U.S.) asked... in effect the meaning of their decision is that they responded to this in the negative," Peres told Israeli army radio.

Labour decided two weeks ago to consider leaving the 15-month-old coalition government if Likud did not accept American Secretary of State James Baker's proposals by Wednesday, Israeli Radio

said Peres was likely to recommend quitting the cabinet and trying to form a narrow coalition with small religious and left-wing parties.

However, it was unclear if Peres would get backing from Rabin, Labour's number two man, who has previously balked at attempts to break up the government.

The poll is to select Palestinians to negotiate with Israel on an interim period of self-government for the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Peres said Likud had effectively rejected Baker's formula for initial talks with Palestinians.

"They also have chutzpah," Peres said, using the Yiddish word for audacity. "They were asked yes or no. So what are they trying to do, some mud-slinging at the Labour Party? We won't agree to this."

"First Likud wanted guarantees from the Americans" against PLO involvement in talks, Peres said. "They didn't succeed, so now they are trying to shift the whole burden to us."

generation" or women.

The Abed Rabbo wing said that it was able to gain support for its demand for convening a general congress for the movement — the third since the founding of the DFLP in 1968 — and that they dominated the preparatory committee entrusted with organising the meeting.

It said that it hoped the congress would have a final say on the prevailing political and organisational differences.

They said, however, that they would continue to struggle against what they described as "the conservative nationalist (pan-Arab nationalist) trend" from within the framework of the group.

The description seems to be a reference to the structure of the Hawatmeh wing as it includes Iraqis and Lebanese alongside Hawatmeh, who is a Jordanian.

On the other hand, the Hawatmeh wing is now describing Abed Rabbo supporters as "Palestinian chauvinists" in the harshest public recrimination in the history of the DFLP, which has been historically known for its complete discretion and secrecy concerning its internal differences.

The major supporters of Hawatmeh include Qas Samra (Abu Laila) and Charles Sowan while among supporters of Abed Rabbo are Saleh Raafat, Mamdoh Noufal, Jamil Hilal and Issam Abdi Latif, who is based in Damascus but who spent two years in Syrian jails.

Tehran paper predicts 1990 to be last year for hostages

NICOSIA (Agencies) — A Tehran newspaper close to Iran's president said Tuesday that 1990 will be the last year of captivity for the hostages in Lebanon, noting in an editorial that the resumption of ties between Iran and the United States was not a precondition for their release.

The English-language Tehran Times said in a second editorial that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad will visit Tehran soon, after an expected trip by his foreign minister, Farouk Al Sharaa.

The second editorial denied reports that the trip by the President Hashemi Rafsanjani's brother to Damascus was related to the hostage question.

Both editorials in the government-owned newspaper were excerpted by the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia.

An Assad visit to Iran was expected, Syria was Iran's only staunch Arab backer in its 1980-88 war against Iraq. Iran and Syria are also in frequent contact over Lebanon, where they back rival Shiite Muslim militias.

The Tehran Times statement said visits between capitals was "a very normal thing," noting that the sensation on the hostage issue created by the Western media over such visits was "much too fancied."

The Tehran Times editorial on the hostages was the second such statement in two weeks saying the 18 Westerners in Lebanon should go free without preconditions. In the past the government-owned paper has reflected the thinking of Rafsanjani.

"Our own assessment indicates that his thorny issue can be sorted out in the near future in a sincere spirit by sincere people," said the editorial, adding, "1990 can and will be the last year of the captivity of these hostages."

The editorial said an effort was underway to free the hostages because "Islam in no way allows or condones the idea that people should be taken or held hostage."

In Beirut, the respected An Nahar daily quoted unidentified Lebanese fundamentalist sources as saying that Iran was prepared to tackle the hostage issue, but ruling out any release soon.

The sources were quoted as saying that there had been no

direct contacts between Iran and the U.S., but both were scouting for a so far unavailable mechanism for releasing the hostages.

Tehran Times said there were no direct talks between Tehran and Washington on resuming relations.

"At this hour, Iran-U.S. relations are not under discussion and such a move is also not supported by the leader of the Islamic Republic and its top officials," said the paper.

It criticised the newspaper Kayhan International for linking the two issues in one of its own editorials, noting that "Iran has no hand in hostage taking at all."

Pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim groups in Lebanon are believed holding most of the 18 Westerners.

Kayhan backed its Saturday editorial in a column Monday, saying Iran's opposition to any links with the United States was well known.

Also Tuesday, the Persian-language daily Jomhuri Islami criticised the Western media for "revising the issue of Western hostages in Lebanon and again attributing it to Iran."

It said the West was once again trying to portray Iran as a "terrorist state" and that reports of talks between Washington and Tehran were aimed at sowing domestic mistrust of Iran's leaders.

It did not name any other newspapers in criticising them for commenting on U.S.-Iran ties and relating it to the hostages.

"Those in the local press who somehow relate the issue of Lebanese hostages to Iran-U.S. ties and offer guidelines in this connection, if not mercenary, are no doubt among those who do not know what to do or what to say."

U.S.-Iran ties were broken following the 1979 attack on the U.S. embassy in Tehran that resulted in 52 Americans being held hostage for 444 days.

The Tehran Times said that the

visit to Damascus by Mahmoud Hashemi had nothing to do with freedom for the hostages.

A Syrian source, who refused to be identified further, said Sunday that the meeting Hashemi, a Foreign Ministry official, and Syria's Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa was to coordinate efforts to gain the release of all the hostages.

U.S. ready for talks with Iran

In Washington, Monday the White House acknowledged that a lot is going on behind the scenes to win the release of Western hostages in Lebanon, but says it has no reason to believe a breakthrough is near.

"We cannot say that there is any movement. We know of no imminent release," spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Monday.

He said the United States would like to hold direct talks with Iran on the hostage issue but insisted no such talks are currently underway.

"There are no secret direct talks but I don't rule out all kinds of discussions and all kind of talks," Fitzwater said.

The White House official said a broad range of people were involved, including businessmen and diplomats.

"They're not official representatives... but I want to make it clear, there are a lot of people who will say they are, and a lot of people who have some justification, saying they've talked to us, they've gotten advice and comments and so forth."

"So there's a lot happening," he said.

His comments came amid increasing speculation that some of the 17 hostages — including eight Americans — might soon be freed.

Security sources in Beirut told Reuters Monday that Terry Anderson, 41, the Middle East bureau chief for the Associated Press might be released by March 16, the fifth anniversary of his abduction.

Fitzwater said that while U.S. policy barred concessions to free the hostages, Washington was "ready to deal directly with authorised representatives of the government of Iran whenever Iran is ready to do so."

He expressed hope that the Swiss captives would be allowed to write messages to their families after five months of detention.

"Please let them do that," he said.

Addressing Erriquez and Christen, the ICRC official said: "We want to tell you that we are here and that you are daily present in our hearts and in our minds. Your families and we for the ICRC are together in a common determination, never to stop over efforts until you join us again."

No group has claimed responsibility for kidnapping the pair. The PLO and Sidon police contend they are held by Fatah-Revolutionary Council, a break-away guerrilla group led by Palestinian leader Abu Nidal. The organisation has denied any involvement.

He said that over the past five months the ICRC has contacted all political and military personalities in Lebanon who have pledged support in trying to win the release of the pair.

"We want to acknowledge that despite these assurances (of support) the problem is still unresolved," Gnaedinger said.

ICRC urges release of kidnapped Swiss

BEIRUT (AP) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) appealed again Tuesday to the kidnappers holding two Swiss colleagues to release them or at least let them write their families.

"Since the sixth of October the ICRC has repeatedly called on you who carry a direct responsibility for their detention, to release Elio and Emmanuel," said Angelo Gnaedinger, the Red Cross delegate for the Middle East and North Africa. In his message to the captors.

"Today we renew this appeal and we tell you that we will spare no effort to pave the way and to find a solution to this problem," Gnaedinger pleaded during a news conference at the ICRC headquarters in mainly Muslim west Beirut.

Elio Erriquez, 23, and Emmanuel Christen, 32, worked as orthopedic technicians at an ICRC clinic in South Lebanon's port city of Sidon, where they were kidnapped Oct. 6.

"The kidnapping is simply an unjust act... we therefore launch an appeal not only to those who have kidnapped Elio and Emmanuel but to all groups in Lebanon to freely respect that mission for the sake of those we're trying to assist," said Gnaedinger.

He said that over the past five months the ICRC has contacted all political and military personalities in Lebanon who have pledged support in trying to win the release of the pair.

"We want to acknowledge that despite these assurances (of support) the problem is still unresolved," Gnaedinger said.

Benjedid party reformists repulse challenge

ALGIERS (R) — Reformists in Algeria's ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) appear to have repulsed a challenge by hardliners in a raucous Central Committee meeting deemed crucial to the party's electoral prospects.

The extraordinary meeting was suspended late Sunday night, but officials said Tuesday specialised committees would continue work until a closing session later this month.

At stake is the unity and political programme of the party that has ruled Algeria unchallenged for 27 years, but is due to face its first multi-party elections on the local level in June.

Most political observers say the FLN risks losing a number of municipal and provincial governments to the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front and other newly legal opposition parties.

Old guard FLN members powerful under former President Houari Boumedienne used the meeting to attack economic reforms launched by President Chadli Benjedid, saying they risked setting the country on the road to capitalism.

"The reforms that have restructured state enterprises have brought no improvement," said former Industry Minister Abdel Salam Belaid, architect of the country's Socialist development in the 1970s.



A Christian family, including a child in a wheelchair, escape embattled areas of East Beirut.

Snipers active during ceasefire as Beirutis brace for fresh fighting

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanese Forces militiamen listened to disco music on radios as they sprawled around the 12-story Mirna Shalouhi building in east Beirut. A few hundred metres away, rebel Gen. Michel Aoun's troops eyed them warily.

The devastated high-rise building and the nearby Nariman Shalouhi block have become forward outposts for the right-wing militia in a six-week-old power struggle for control of the Christian enclave north of Beirut.

There was supposed to be a ceasefire. But sporadic gunfire crackled around the battered streets of the Sin El Fil district as civilians scrambled for food and water while they can.

No one believes the fighting is over yet. The two Christian forces have battled each other to a standstill, leaving their bloody power struggle unresolved.

The Lebanese Forces (LF) led by onetime medical student Samir Geagea can claim to have blocked Aoun's campaign to crush them.

They hold two-thirds of the 800-square-kilometre enclave, including its ports of Beirut, Jounieh and Byblos.

But Aoun has vowed to eliminate the militia, the main military challenge to his claim to be the sole authority in the enclave.

Geagea has pledged to fight to the finish. But if they continue to devastate Beirut's Christian sector at the rate they've been doing, any victory will be a hollow one.

Aoun badly needs a clear-cut triumph. His last attempt to storm Geagea's stronghold in Sin El Fil and neighbouring districts was a costly failure.

His troops, led by U.S.-made M-48 tanks, fought to the outskirts of the districts Thursday and Friday, but were bloodily repulsed in 36 hours of savage fighting by Geagea's battle-hardened veterans using 106 mm

cannons and rocket-propelled grenades from the alleyways.

Now, with another ceasefire, the waiting has begun again.

The Mirna Shalouhi building was fiercely contested in the last shootout.

At the entrance, a Lebanese Forces fighter Monday washed coffee cups with murky water poured from a large whiskey bottle.

His comrades smoked and listened to disco music as they flopped out on leather armchairs in the lobby, their AK-47 assault rifles stacked against the green elevator doors.

The militiamen had scrawled on the door in black, "Hakim is our leader forever" and "Misho Aoun, the traitor."

Geagea is known to his men as "Hakim," which means doctor in Arabic, a concession to his three years at medical school.

Aoun has been given the off-military nickname of "Misho," a corruption of his first name.

The fighting erupted on Jan. 30, when Aoun, after months of prevarication, finally moved against Geagea with his troops.

In the fiercest battles between Christian Forces since the civil war erupted in April 1975, more than 750 people have been killed and 2,088 wounded.

A shipping container, a blue American Sedan and a truck block the road leading into Mirna Shalouhi from the main highway, which Aoun sought to seize so he could use his armour to strike at Geagea's positions nearby in a thrust on the Lebanese Forces headquarters in the harbour-side Karantina district.

Blankets, pots and pans, and ammunition boxes that double as tables were scattered over the black marble floor of the commercial centre's lobby.

The building housed the offices of American Express, the Dutch Airline KLM and the British Reuters News Agency.

As the militiamen rested, Reuters staffers picked their way down the dirty stairs carrying blue plastic bags and boxes full of files and documents.

One of their two second-floor offices was completely devastated. The corridor looked like a dark cavern, with wires and metal rods dangling from the ceiling.

It was blocked by piles of rubble. The acrid stench of cordite hung in the air.

The walls of the adjacent offices were demolished by shellfire, making it difficult to determine where one office began and another ended.

"Nothing," left there," one Reuters employee said as he swept dust and rubble off wire machines.

The strong metal doors of the American Express office on the fourth floor were still intact, so it was not possible to check whether the office had taken any hits.

"The army slammed incendiary bombs mostly at the bottom three floors because they wanted to trap our guys, who were upstairs, but setting the place on fire and to prevent supplies getting up from downstairs," said one militiaman.

Sponge mattresses used as beds by the militiamen jutted out of the two elevator cages at the Nariman Shalouhi building.

At one end of the parking lot downstairs, Antoinette Saleh was hanging clothes as sniper fire crackled nearby.

"I lost my house," she sobbed.

"My husband's 55. He won't live long enough to make enough money to repair it."

Mrs. Saleh, together with a dozen other civilians who live nearby, have moved into the basement shelter of the Nariman Shalouhi building because their exposed homes are too dangerous to live in.

Mosquitoes buzzed in the dark shelter which was overflowing with water from pipes burst by shellfire.

Uprising leaders invite Mandela to Palestine

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian leaders of a 27-month-old revolt against Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip Tuesday invited freed South African black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela to visit Palestine.

"The Unified Leadership of the Uprising invites African leader Nelson Mandela to visit our occupied Palestinian state to observe on the ground the same conditions of repression that both of our struggling people live under," a leaflet issued by the clandestine command of the uprising said.

Mandela, 71, was freed in February after 27 years in jail for plotting to overthrow white rule in South Africa.

The leaflet, welcoming a meeting between Mandela and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Lusaka last week, called for world pressure on the Israeli and South African governments to free all Arab and South African political prisoners.

The leaflet, reiterating deep concern over the settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants on occupied Arab lands, called on wealthy Arab states to use oil and money to stop Jewish immigration to Israel.

The leadership appealed to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to block direct migration

to Israel, saying the influx hampered Middle East peace efforts. "The immigration threatens the future of the National Palestinian cause and hampers the chances of a comprehensive peace settlement in the region," the leaflet said.

More than 70,000 Jews live in settlements among the 1.75 million Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which were occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

Several hundred of an estimated 10,000 Soviet Jewish immigrants have settled in the occupied territories. Israel says it expects up to 100,000 Soviet Jews to arrive this year.

The Unified Leadership, made up of the four major groups in the Palestine Liberation Organisation, called on Arab residents of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem to start summer time on March 10 — two weeks ahead of Israel.

Palestinians said the Unified Leadership had instituted a separate summer time from Israel last year as a symbolic gesture of Arab independence from Israel.

The Unified Leadership also called for marches and other protest demonstrations Thursday to mark International Women's Day and urged local businesses to make the day a paid holiday.

Israel allows West Bank junior college to reopen

AL ARUB, Occupied West Bank (AP) — Facing international pressure to reopen Palestinian universities, Israel's army Tuesday allowed classes to resume at a West Bank teacher's college.

The untroubled resumption of classes at the Arub Academy and the planned reopening of other two-year schools were seen as tests for a possible restart of universities that have been shut almost since the start of the 26-month Palestinian uprising.

But the army said soldiers closed two elementary schools and a middle school Tuesday in the West Bank city of Nablus, raising to 27 the number of primary and secondary schools shut so far this year for disturbances.

Arab education officials were told the latest closures were because pupils had stoned West Bank military Commander Yitzhak Mordechai's military jeep.

The Arub Academy, a men's college which trains students to teach English, Arabic, Islamic studies and geography, was the scene of jubilant reunions Tuesday.

"It's one of the happiest days we have had," said Hamad Sarur, the headmaster.

Hurrying for class with a notebook in hand, Yousef Asafreh, 25, said that because of army closures he has spent more than four years trying to get a teaching certificate in Arabic that normally takes two years.

Amnesty accuses Chad of torture, secret executions

LONDON (R) — Amnesty International accused Chad Wednesday of torturing and secretly executing political prisoners, saying hundreds of detainees had disappeared.

In response to armed opposition and insurgencies, the authorities have condemned or permitted... arbitrary arrest, secret detention, torture and extrajudicial execution," the London-based human rights organisation said.

Reporting on political prisoners in Chad, Amnesty said the government of President Hissene Habre, a former guerrilla leader who came to power in 1982, had given no information about hun-

dreds arrested in the last eight years.

"The prisoners effectively 'disappeared' after arrest... unofficial sources, however, claim that a considerable number have died in custody and there is evidence that some have been executed extrajudicially," it said.

"Certain prisoners were taken to the presidency before they were executed... strongly suggesting that President Habre knew they were to be killed."

According to Amnesty's information, none of the detainees had been brought to trial since 1982.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programme
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:45 Cairo news message
20:30 Local programme
20:30 News in Arabic
21:30 Arabic series
21:30 News in Arabic
21:40 Play "Pera"

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Documentary
18:45 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Nut House
21:10 The Magnum Story
21:40 News in English
22:20 The Final Run

PRAYER TIMES

05:35 Fajr
06:35 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:47 Dhahar
15:06 'Asr
17:41 Maghreb
18:57 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swaidah, Tel. 810740

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624390

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terraviva Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Armenian Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 625433

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 638326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611225

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and winds will be northwesterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

AMMAN

Dr. Tawqar Khazk 606857

Dr. George Al Shalouhi 776751

Dr. Adnan Zaghoul 898140

Dr. Amin Abdul Jabbar 614222

Ferdows pharmacy 776336

Al Asana pharmacy 637055

Nisrokh pharmacy 628672

Al Salem pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shamsi pharmacy 637660

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Tawqar Khazk 606857

Dr. George Al Shalouhi 776751

Dr. Adnan Zaghoul 898140

Dr. Amin Abdul Jabbar 614222

Ferdows pharmacy 776336

Al Asana pharmacy 637055

Nisrokh pharmacy 628672

Al Salem pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shamsi pharmacy 637660

BEIRUT:

Dr. Lawrence Badr (—)

Al Sharaa pharmacy (98238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Farah Aqarawi (—)

Khalifah pharmacy 985417

RJ Flight Information 06-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Emergency 630341

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 773121

Highway Police 634302

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Prior Complaints 651776

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Ra'd thanks King

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, president of the Friends of the Blind Society, Tuesday voiced appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein for his generous contribution to charitable societies. In a message to King Hussein, Prince Ra'd said that the King's contribution "embodies his paternal love to his family and reflects his passionate feelings towards each one of his family." King Hussein Monday placed an amount of 100,000 French francs, which the Falcon of Jordan won in the Malaysia air race, at the disposal of the Friends of the Blind Society, for use in the treatment of eye patients, especially those undergoing cornea transplants.

Club honours chess aces

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, president of the Royal Chess Club, Tuesday attended a special party held at the club to honour members of the National Chess Club who took part in the Asian Cities Chess Championship held in Dubai from Jan. 16 to Feb. 2. The team scored the best-ever results that Jordan achieved in international championships. Prince Mohammad presented the team members with token gifts in appreciation of their efforts. The team members presented the medals they won to Prince Mohammad in recognition of his efforts to support chess in Jordan.

Expired passports valid for return

AMMAN (J.T.) — Citizens living abroad and carrying expired Jordanian passports will be allowed to use them to return the Kingdom, according to instructions issued by Minister of Interior Salem Masa'deh. The minister, who was replying to an inquiry made by Lower House of Parliament member Mansour Murad, noted that Jordanians should carry passports if they want to return home and they can get them at Jordanian embassies abroad which can issue alternative identification papers if necessary. The minister noted also that Jordanian passports for nationals living abroad can be done through embassies and consulates and through authorising other persons to carry out this procedure. In this case, he said, approval by the General Intelligence and the Public Security departments will be needed, according to the provisions of the Passport Law.

Iraqis to get equal treatment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraqi nationals will be treated on equal footing with Jordanians upon registering as guests in Jordanian hotels, according to Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabariti. The minister said this measure would take effect as of April 1990. It was reached between the ministry and the Jordan Hotels Association (JHA). Ministry officials said the Jordanian move was expected to be reciprocated by the Iraqi authorities. The minister noted in a statement to Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times that the JHA and the Ministry of Tourism would soon dispatch a team to Iraq to help market Jordan's tourist sites there in implementation of an agreement taken by the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC). According to the Ministry of Tourism, the first tourist groups from Iraq are expected to arrive here in April.

Electricity workers to elect council

AMMAN (J.T.) — Workers in the electricity sector will Thursday elect a new council and president, according to Samir Qardan, president of the General Association of Workers in the Electricity Sector. Two blocs, one headed by Qardan and the other headed by Walid Al Khayyat, are running in the elections. The elections will take place Thursday morning at the premises of the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions.

Produce exports increase

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's exports of fresh fruit and vegetables during February amounted to 44,300 tonnes, worth JD 9.43 million, compared with 25,400 tonnes during the same month last year. However, Jordan's imports during the reported period were 4,000 tonnes, compared with 2,850 tonnes during the same month in 1989.

Jordanian, American women to debate

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two Jordanian women, Subhia Maani, vice-president of the Business and Professional Women's Club, and Mariam Shahin, a staff reporter for the Jordan Times, will exchange ideas with a panel of American businesswomen in Washington, via satellite. The programme will take place in the auditorium of the American Centre, Jabal Amman, Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. Guests are welcome.

Friendship society elects board

AMMAN (J.T.) — The general assembly of the Jordanian-Italian Friendship Society has elected a new board chaired by Abdul Rahman Al Bahri. The board includes in addition to President Bahri, Mashhour Tadras as vice-president; Raghdia Salah as secretary; Dina Qatan as treasurer and Mahmoud Talhoumi, Hani Dahleh, Mohammad Al Khatib, Mohammad Al Qasem and Fawaz Toukan as members. The society, which aims at promoting political, economic and cultural ties between Jordan and Italy was founded in 1982.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of oils and watercolours by Jordanian artist Youssef Baddawi at the gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental — 9:00 a.m. — 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition by Jordanian artist Hassan Jalal at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by plastic artists Arif Al Hamed and Ibrahim Al Nabahneh at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ Graphic art exhibition by Ne'emat Al Nasser at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shammam Foundation.
- ★ Exhibition of ceramics by Iraqi artist Shiam Al Saoudi at Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.

LECTURES

- ★ Lecture on "Economics Ethics and Law" by Dr. J.R. Kearl, associate academic vice-president of Brigham Young University, at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Economy building — 5:00 p.m.
- ★ A lecture, in Arabic, by American University of Beirut (AUB) President Ibrahim Al Sali on AUB's present and future at the hotel Jordan Inter-Continental — 6:30 p.m.
- ★ A lecture, in Arabic, entitled "Parliament of the future in Jordan" by Adnan Abu Odah, the political advisor of His Majesty King Hussein, at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

FILMS

- ★ A video entitled "Tumbledown" at the British Council — 5:00 p.m.
- ★ A French film entitled "Pêcheurs d'Islande" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

University teachers give shape to union

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Academic staff at the University of Jordan took the initiative to set up the first-ever association of teachers of higher education in the Kingdom by convening a preparatory meeting at the campus Tuesday and unveiled what they described as the basic objectives of the proposed representative body.

About 150 professors and lecturers gathered at the university's Samir Rifai amphitheatre to hear some of their leaders speak of the necessity to set up an organised group to represent them and protect their rights. There are approximately 700 lecturers and professors at the University of Jordan.

A self-appointed steering committee of Dr. Fawaz Toukan, a former minister of social development, and Dr. Fawzi Sahawneh, a demographic scholar, chaired the meeting after a leaflet outlining the objectives of a university teachers association was distributed to the academics at the university.

The leaflet explained the objectives of the proposed association as:

- Reaffirming that university teaching is not a job but a profession;
- Upgrading the position of teachers in their "bargaining" positions with the administration; and
- Setting up the framework for educational reforms and philosophies.

The last attempt to form a

teachers union at the University of Jordan failed in the 1970s because professional associations and teachers' unions, whether those in higher education or otherwise, were banned.

Although the first meeting was basically pre-preparatory, certain demands by professors and lecturers came to the fore at the gathering. Many suggestions underlined the age-old conflict in all educational institutions between administrators and academicians, ranging from elections of department heads instead of appointments to decentralisation of the whole university administration system.

"There is too much power in the hands of the president," said one professor. "He controls everything," he said, in-

sisting on anonymity. Another professor charged that appointments were often based on favouritism rather than merits of the candidates.

While Sahawneh said that he favoured the application of the universities law vis-a-vis professors, one professor said that he favoured amendments to the law with a view to making it more favourable towards the academic staff rather than the administration.

Many professors lamented "poor working conditions" at the university, and complaints ranged from lack of simple office facilities to transportation. "Most of us do not have access to basics, such as photocopy machines while some members of the administration are driving around in very big cars and have very big offices,"

said one member of the teaching staff.

Another complaint aired Tuesday was that the rights of professors were "often violated" with the "victims" having "no legal recourse," particularly that there was no representative body for the university staff.

"According to the university law we are allowed to go on special assignments to other universities for three years," said a professor. "Our previous administration reduced it to one year without a plebiscite and without the approval of the people involved," one professor said adding that he was approached by several universities in the Gulf offering two-year contracts. "Last year we lost 25 professors to Gulf uni-

versities because our administration would not give them leave of absence. I don't want to resign but they certainly aren't making it easy for us," he said.

"All professors and lecturers agree we need a union in order to protect our personal and professional rights. It has always been a must but in the age of democracy in Jordan it has become our right to have a say in our future," concluded one professor, who was involved in the attempted establishment of a teachers union on campus in the 1970s.

Organisers expect more professors to attend the next scheduled meeting Monday at 6:00 p.m. in which more ground rules and election procedures are expected to be discussed.

Ministry denies charging high prices for oil products

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Tuesday denied assertions that prices of oil products in Jordan are higher than those in the other countries which, like Jordan, possess no alternative sources of energy.

The ministry's secretary-general, Ibrahim Badran, said in an article published in Al Ra'i arabic daily, in response to a column in the paper written by Fakhri Kassar that, the columnist's claim that prices of oil products in Jordan, which geographically is close to the oil resources in the Arab World, were double those in Europe and the United States was totally baseless. He maintained that oil prices were the same everywhere, especially in countries under conditions similar to those in Jordan.

Badran also referred to the columnist's claim that the Jordanian government had been receiving JD 15 million annually from the Tapline Company as transit fees for crude oil passing

through Jordanian territory to Lebanon via Syria. He said that the claim was unfounded since no more oil passes along the pipeline, which became defunct in 1984. Now the line serves only Jordan because no more crude oil is pumped through it to reach the Mediterranean Sea, Badran stressed. "The Jordanian government receives no revenues from the Tapline company and has to purchase crude oil from any country at international prices," he said.

Badran noted, however, that before oil pumping along the pipeline to Lebanon came to a halt in 1984, the government had received \$511 million in transit charges but had to pay for the pipeline's operational services. He said that the government received \$511 million from Tapline in the second quarter of 1989.

Referring to the columnist's assertion that the government was charging high prices for refined oil products in Jordan, Badran said the situation in the King-

dom was no different from any other country.

He said prices of oil products in Jordan were normal. But, he said, "If the price of petrol is relatively high, one has to take into account that the price of kerosene, a product used mostly by the limited — income groups, is low and even less than the cost price."

"Indeed, the government has been following a policy by which it considers fuel prices as one 'integrated package', allowing for the limited income groups to have certain products at subsidised prices," Badran added. But, he stressed, the government does not make any financial gain from such policy.

When crude oil prices rose in the early 1980's, oil prices in Jordan remained the same since the government had paid JD 250 million in the first half of the 1980s in subsidies, he said. "When oil prices began to recede after 1986, the government began to gradually reduce its subsidy on



Ibrahim Badran

oil products and the saved amount was used to make up for the deficit accumulated over the previous years," he said. "In 1989, prices of oil products and fuel brought no surplus and final accounts showed a deficit."

Badran said the government had always been braced to absorb shocks caused by sudden price hikes with a view to retaining economic stability in the country. He said that any journalist wishing to obtain further information about these facts was welcome to call at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources.

Islamists urge revival of front, use of 'oil weapon'

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prominent members of the Islamic movement in Jordan have called for the revival of the Eastern Front grouping of Arab countries confronting Israel and the use of the Arab oil wealth as a tool in the ongoing battle against world Zionism and Israel's allies.

Addressing a seminar held in Amman Monday to express solidarity with the Palestinian uprising, several activists said Islam was the only effective weapon against Zionism.

The seminar was part of a week-long programme of cultural activities entitled "The International Jerusalem Week," during which a series of activities were held at the Palace of Culture and other areas of Amman to rally support for the Palestinian cause. One of the prominent speakers was Dr. Kamel Al Sharif, a former minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, who said that "the only reply to the Zionism's practices is through Islam and the Islamic movement."

"We should realise this fact and we should adopt this strategy as the axis of all future moves," Sharif said.

Ikhwan suggests inclusions in charter

(Continued from page 1)

to consult with all Jordanian trends "from the extreme right to the extreme left" over the drafting of the charter.

The 18-point Ikhwan pamphlet, also called in its first point for the application of Islam as the source for political life in Jordan.

"Islam is the faith and the civilisation of the nation... it is the source of its laws and directive of its policies in all aspects of life..." it said.

The Ikhwan statement called for protecting human rights, including that of women for their "great role in sharing with man the responsibility for developing the society."

The statement contained an implicit warning against any attempt to ignore Islam. "The nation has reached a high level of awareness towards the role of this basis (Islam) of its life that we view with disdain and disgust, anyone who underestimates this fundamental. We classify such people as outside the circle of the nation and we reject their belonging to it," the statement warned.

He said, "All those who try to obstruct the Islamic movement will be considered as serving Israel's objectives." He stressed that "there can be no solution except through the revival of the Islamic movement."

"Any talk or action outside the context of the Islamic movement is futile and fruitless," Sharif added.

He pointed out that the major powers of the world were reorganising their positions in a manner that could serve their own interests without any consideration for the small nations. "The Soviet Union can do nothing about the emigration of Jews because Moscow is now most interested in acquiring modern technology at any cost," he said.

Another speaker, Upper House of Parliament member Ishaq Al Farhan, stressed that Jewish immigration in Palestine was tantamount to a "third disaster" for the Palestinian people and the Arab World at large. "Palestine will remain an Arab and Islamic country despite the conspiracies of the world powers since 1948," Farhan said. He warned that no solutions can come from the United States, "which is giving deceptive promises to the Arabs."

The Palestinian uprising "is an

act of God and is the only hope for the Palestinians to end Israel's occupation and atrocities," Farhan declared. "Israel is the vanguard of the United States, serving American interests and therefore U.S. fleets in Arab waters are directed against Arab interests and not for Arab protection," he added.

Farhan called on the Arabs to revive the Eastern Front and to involve Arab wealth in the battle. Dr. Mohammad Sager, former president of Gaza University, described the Palestinian uprising as "a blessing from God, serving as an introduction to a comprehensive change in the Islamic World."

"This region can accommodate only one culture, that of the Islamic World or the invaders," Sager said. The uprising has shaken the Jewish state, underlining the fact that Israel can never stay on the land of Palestine," he said.

Sager called for intensifying the uprising to include Palestinian lands occupied since 1948 and said that "99 per cent of the cards in this struggle are in the hands of the Arabs."

Several parliament members and a large audience were present at the seminar.

Trainer jet crashes

AMMAN (R) — A Jordanian Air Force trainer jet crashed in hills north of Amman last week, killing its Bahraini pilot, a government source said Tuesday.

He said a Spanish-made CASA C-101 Aviojet crashed Wednesday between Jerash and Ajloun, apparently because the Bahraini trainee pilot fainted during a climbing turn. His instructor and another trainee pilot were performing the same manoeuvre in formation in another C-101 at the time.

The Air Force investigated the accident but did not suspend the training programme on the planes, delivered in 1987, because there was no evidence of mechanical failure, the source added.

No immediate comment could be obtained from the Air Force, military information office or the Bahraini embassy.

King

(Continued from page 1)

The King later met with the Arab ambassadors accredited to France and briefed them on Jordan's position on different Arab issues and the latest developments in the Arab region.

The King said the Arab World, through the Gulf Cooperation Council, the ACC and the Arab Maghreb Union, had launched a new phase of action in the path of pan-Arab integration.

The King said events in Eastern Europe made it incumbent upon the Arab states to maintain a constant dialogue with Eastern European states and the Soviet Union.

The King, wrapping up a two-day visit to Paris, has scheduled talks Wednesday with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Bush

(Continued from page 1)

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler earlier Monday criticised Israel's decision to impose military censorship on news items about Soviet immigration.

Tutwiler said Washington included Arab Jerusalem in its definition of occupied territories. "You know what our definition of territories is. It's the same one we've had for 23 years, and it refers to all territories occupied in 1967," she said.

Sub-committee to study W. Bank, Gaza situation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Occupied Territories Affairs Committee of the Lower House of Parliament met and discussed a number of issues referred to it and decided to set up a sub-committee to be entrusted with drawing up a working paper on the nature of the problems encountered by the people in occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The committee, meeting under the chairmanship of its rapporteur Abdul Rahim Al Akour, also discussed the legal and humanitarian implications of the Jordanian government's 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative relations with the West Bank.

Student quota raised

The Ministry of Higher Education has decided to increase the number of Palestinian students admitted to Jordanian community colleges from three per cent to five per cent.

The Higher Education Council has decided to allocate three per

cent of all seats in Jordanian universities to Palestinian students from the occupied territories.

The decision takes effect as of this year, according to sources.

Agricultural panel meets

The House's agricultural committee also met Tuesday and discussed agricultural loans and problems facing tobacco farmers, in addition to a ban on the use of water from artesian wells. The committee's chairman, Sultan Al Adwan, said that talks focused on the need for writing-off or reducing interest on loans granted to small farmers.

On Saturday, the House will meet to discuss decisions adopted by its committees. Prime Minister Mudar Badran and cabinet ministers will also submit replies to deputies' queries. The House will also debate some of the proposals made by deputies to discuss the educational policy and supply and prices policy.

Probe reveals violations by Zarqa Municipality

AMMAN (J.T.) — A special investigating committee has found that complaints raised by Zarqa residents to the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment over "excesses and violations of regulations" by Zarqa municipality, were justified, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Tuesday.

The committee, which was set up by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Abdul Karim Al Dughmi, said the Zarqa municipality had breached the law when issuing licences for buildings and licences for tradesmen. The report said that there was unwarranted use of municipal vehicles and inappropriate staff appointments.

"The municipality has been in the practice of issuing licences for buildings in an unorthodox manner and in violation of all rules, and allowing some citizens to set up homes on plots of land partly owned by the state," the report said.

It said that the municipality has failed to fine the law violators and also failed to demolish parts of buildings built without proper licences or authorisation.

The report said that the Zarqa municipality also violated the law by appointing 120 employees since last December, despite explicit instructions that no appointments should be made and that numerous violations were committed concerning the use of municipal vehicles.

Indian team briefed on APC production

KARAK (J.T.) — Rabi Ray, speaker of India's Lower House of Parliament, Tuesday visited the Arab Potash Company (APC), which exports nearly one quarter of its products to India making it the main importer of Jordanian potash.

At a meeting with APC Director Ali Ensour, Ray was told that the plant's current annual production capacity stands at 1.44 million tonnes but an expansion plan is expected to increase production to 1.8 million tonnes by the year 1993.

India, Ensour said, imports nearly half a million tonnes of Jordanian potash annually — 25

per cent of the total APC production.

Ray, who, accompanied by a parliamentary delegation, toured parts of the plant located at the southern tip of the Dead Sea, said that his country was linked with Jordan by friendship and trade ties. He said that the two countries were involved in joint projects in which Jordan provides the raw materials while India provides expertise.

Ensour explained the APC's production programmes and said that Jordan ranked as the world's eighth biggest producer of potash, most of which was exported.

Seminar studies ways to conserve energy

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seminar opened in Amman Tuesday to study means of reducing cost of industrial production through rationalising energy consumption and boosting national industries.

The seminar, which was organised by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), also aims to improve methods of energy consumption by Jordanian industries in order to reduce cost and improve product quality to compete in foreign markets, according to a ministry official.

The official said rationalising energy consumption will result in a reduction of the amount of imported fuel. It will also save hard currency.

According to the official, the ministry has begun a series of studies on model industries to be selected by the Chamber of Industry as case studies. Several engineers will be trained on energy consumption rationalisation.

The seminar, which was opened by ministry Secretary-General Ibrahim Badran, was attended by representatives of several public and private institutions and industrial concerns in Jordan.

Under the terms of a three-year agreement signed by the Jordanian government and USAID, the latter pledged to provide assistance in helping Jordan's exports both regionally and throughout the world.

Jordan Times

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Information panel: Is it really needed?

THE DELIBERATIONS of the reconstituted National Guidance Committee could go sweet or sour depending on what it is trying to do. Normally countries which are endowed with democracy and free press do not need such a panel to articulate and formulate the information policy of the country. And as Jordan has entered the threshold of freedom of thought and democratic rule, one has to be wary about where this Jordanian innovation could lead us.

With the advent of parliamentary life to the Kingdom, there is no valid excuse or good rationale behind superceding Parliament in defining any Jordanian policy, be it domestic or external. That is the essence of parliamentary democracy which has the exclusive mandate to formulate Jordanian policies on varied subjects and issues. It would be relatively easy therefore to question the legality of the recommendations or decisions of the National Guidance Committee, if they are not adopted in due course by Parliament. The illustrious members of that committee are not elected members and have no mandate from the people of Jordan to adopt even quasi-legal rules on their behalf.

The second concern centres on the fact that there is already a body of laws in the country that governs the guidelines for the information policy of the Kingdom. Some of these legal guidelines can be found in the Constitution of the Land which cannot be preempted or amended or changed even by the elected Parliament except through due process of the law. Other legal provisions can be found in the laws of the country outside the realm of the Constitution which also require the seal of approval of Parliament should there be need to amend them or repeal them or whatever.

For all these considerations, there is a need to be concerned at this stage with any attempt to define the information policy of the country from outside our legal and constitutional frameworks. Otherwise there will always be fear that freedom of press and thought could end up being suffocated and nullified through the back door.

If, on the other hand, the intention is to have the Parliament scrutinise whatever emerges from the deliberations of the National Guidance Committee, then there might be some benefit to be reaped from airing the views and expert opinion of the members of the committee.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

King Hussein's current visit to France is of great significance, coming at this critical moment as the Europeans are making ready for their unity in 1992 and in view of the influx of Soviet Jews into Palestine, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. The question of Jewish settlement in the occupied Arab lands and the prospects of peace in the Middle East are bound to come up in the talks between the King and President Mitterrand, said the paper. It is quite obvious that the Europeans in general and France in particular have been supporting the idea of an international conference to reach a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and it is therefore quite reasonable to believe that the Europeans could be persuaded to take some kind of action in this matter in view of the dangerous situation in the region on the one hand and as Europe maintains very strong ties with the Arab World on the other, the paper continued. It said that the King's current tour in view of the present situation in the Middle East and his talks with European leaders on matters of mutual interest are considered as one further link in his ongoing endeavours to fend off danger and enlist the world leaders' support for the Arab moves to attain a lasting and just peace in the region.

Columnist Tareq Masarweh calls in his article in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday for meaningful support for the Eritrean liberation movement because he says it is bound to help abort Israel's expansionist moves in the African continent. The writer says that Egypt has realised the danger of the Ethiopian regime and is now leading the way in supporting the rebels in their move to topple the regime in Addis Ababa and thwart its attempts to open the way for Israel to delve deep into the continent and carry out its plans there. The writer says that Arab states ought to end the relationship between the Ethiopian regime and the rebels in South Sudan who are now trying to separate the south from the northern parts of the country and disintegrate the Sudan. It is clear that the regime in Addis Ababa is hostile in words and deeds to the Arab World and trying to break up Sudan and allowing Israel to have a free hand in Africa, Masarweh maintains. He says therefore everything possible should be done to back the rebellion of the Eritrean people against tyranny and against injustice, and with a view to defending Arab interests in the face of the Ethiopian-Israeli alliance against Sudan and the African nations.

Al Dustour daily also commented on King Hussein's visit to Europe and said that the visit was part of his continued efforts to serve the Arab Nation and its just causes. The paper said that the visit assumes importance at this particular time as we witness continued influx of Jews in Palestine and as we feel Arab interests are being exposed to danger. Jordan, said the paper, realises more than other parties in the region the importance of the European role in general and France's efforts in particular to bring about peace in the Middle East. It is with this realisation of these facts that the King is now spearheading fresh efforts to bring about justice and stability to the area and to fend off the danger of Israel and its plans to settle thousands of Jews on occupied Arab land, the paper noted. It said that Jordan is doing all it can and with renewed determination and resolve to bring about peace through Europe's assistance and support from the international community.

ECONOMIC FORUM

Unemployment: Historic and strategic solutions

By Dr. Abadalla Malki

UNEMPLOYMENT is one of the grave socio-economic evils, probably the gravest of them. This is why alleviating this problem has been one of the three cardinal objectives of economic policies in developed countries and (hopefully) in developing countries alike. The other two are boosting economic growth and curbing inflation.

Hard options. Unfortunately, employment and price stability are mutually-exclusive objectives. Normally, either you have high levels of employment marred with inflation or price stability mingled with unemployment. However, the eighties brought about the odd phenomenon of stagflation, that is a situation where inflation co-existed with recession and, through it, with unemployment. We in Jordan have been admirably successful in forging a similar oddity because we chose to devalue the Jordanian dinar in a state of both nationwide unemployment and economic recession. While stagflation in advanced countries had been triggered by the jump in prices due to the so-called oil shock, our stagflation was caused by the devaluation shock. As we do not have a production base, actual or potential, which is formidable enough to make major breakthroughs in exports and imports substitution, the satisfactory tackling of unemployment and

inflation problems will have to wait for a long time, long indeed if miracles, economic or otherwise, are ruled out.

Disguised and underemployment. There are various well-known kinds of unemployment which need not detain us here. Disguised unemployment, for example, refers to a situation where we can draw one or more members off a workforce without affecting the volume of output. This, we believe, is common to our public sector establishments. Another characteristic feature is underemployment, that is where a doctor, for example, is to take the job of a driver.

Structural unemployment. The above example will typify structural unemployment if the doctor does not take that job. In classical terms, structural unemployment prevails when we have vacant jobs and jobless workers but the latter do not fill the former on account of whatever reasons (mismatching skills, geographic location). This applies also where workers become redundant due to technological developments and changes.

Built-in solution. To our mind, structural unemployment, thus defined, is not the crux of the matter. Now we have it in Jordan. But remember the boom years when we had the same "structure" without "unemployment". That was the time when the economy

solved the structural unemployment problem without people being even aware of its existence. The message here must be self-evident. What matters is the level of economic activity. If it is high, this activity is capable in itself of matching skills with jobs without policy intervention.

Structural: Another dimension. The basic unemployment problem in Jordan is that the economy is "structured" in such a way as to produce labourers more than jobs. This dimension is more structural than the textbook formulation and is, therefore, more instrumental in Jordan's unemployment manual.

As with commodities, unemployment means surplus labour that has to be exported and/or substituted for expatriate labour. In a nutshell, these are the makings of the unemployment problem and its alleviation. Historically speaking, the solution was the exportation of labour. Now this has to be coupled with import-substitution irrespective of any calculations. However, it is our conviction that the strategic solution to Jordan's unemployment and many other economic problems is the modernisation of the agricultural sector which is the employer of the majority of expatriate workers that have to be replaced by indigenous labourers as a major step towards that goal.

Could Europe's peace mean cheaper weapons?

By Nicholas Doughty

Reuter

BRUSSELS — For sale or hire: tanks, artillery, small arms, ammunition, soldiers, other tools of war, all in good condition, going cheap.

Reason for sale: Peace in Europe, after 40 years of planning for a war that never came.

Arms experts are concerned that huge reductions in East-West conventional forces, currently being negotiated in Vienna, and other cuts in defence outlays could have unwelcome consequences for many of the world's regional conflicts.

They worry that equipment could be sold cheaply to developing countries, on the black market or legally, or that disaffected professional soldiers may take the same route — making warfare in already unstable areas a deadlier proposition.

"Right now, everyone's waiting to see what will happen. There's a lot of people in the arms trade expecting prices to drop quite sharply, with a lot of new stuff around," said Ian McGregor, a British arms dealer

based in Wales who specialises in Warsaw Pact equipment.

Such developments would put extra pressure on the world's defence industries, already struggling with the prospect of fewer lucrative orders in the future. A flood of second-hand equipment may make some countries think again about buying new.

McGregor said prices had already dropped in the last year or two and that more modern equipment was available now.

"The Soviets will sell me stuff from the factory floor now. A few years ago, they wouldn't have been very happy to let me see anything newer than 20 years old," he told Reuters.

"If you want a brand new T-72 (Soviet main battle tank), I can have it delivered in Britain within three weeks and it will cost you \$1.2 million, with full backup service."

NATO and the Warsaw Pact have agreed to destroy thousands of tanks, armoured vehicles, big guns and aircraft under the terms of the treaty on conventional forces in Europe (CFE).

But NATO diplomats say the exact definition of destruction has

not yet been finally agreed and that there could be major loopholes to be exploited by governments or arms dealers.

"This whole issue is becoming a problem," Wolfgang Heisenberg, an arms control expert at the Brussels-based Centre for European Policy Studies, told Reuters.

"Take a tank as an example," said one diplomat at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

"If we agree to destroy it as a weapons platform, it means we have to destroy the tank as such. But it doesn't necessarily exclude stripping it first of ammunition, communications and gun sighting equipment, all stuff that could be very useful."

Even if the treaty agrees that

tanks, planes and artillery pieces are to be completely destroyed, some experts say there may still be the chance for the more unscrupulous arms dealers to get their hands on intact equipment before it is destroyed.

"Neither side is going to be able to verify this treaty 100 per cent, there's just too much equipment," said the NATO diplomat. "Unfortunately, there will always be people around who are ready to exploit that."

The CFE pact, which is likely to be signed this year, also aims to cut Soviet and U.S. troops in Central Europe to 195,000 on each side. In addition, Moscow has already begun unilateral withdrawals of troops and equipment, most of it in Europe.

"Even if you discount the heavy equipment, there are going to be a lot of small arms around machine-guns, mortars, anti-tank weapons," said a NATO official closely involved in arms control negotiations.

"The price of weapons and military services could drop as a result and a lot of soldiers may seek adventure elsewhere Asia, Africa, the Middle East," the official said.

"There are a lot of soldiers who have a specialised training and have probably never done anything else," said Ian Anthony, an arms trade expert with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). "They

may be tempted." The world arms trade is estimated to be worth around \$35 billion a year. "Nobody knows how much of that is illegal trade, but there are guesses at between five and 10 per cent of the total," Anthony said.

Ronald Lehman, head of the U.S. arms control and disarmament agency, has said he is worried about surplus Soviet and Warsaw Pact equipment leaking on to the market — particularly because Eastern European countries need the cash to help repair their shattered economies.

Some arms control experts think Lehman is taking an unnecessarily partisan view.

New Yugoslav constitution aims to reform politics, economy

By Milena Zakovic

YUGOSLAVIA's federal units are studying an enlarged proposal by Prime Minister Ante Markovic's government for constitutional changes. In addition to this document, the Federal Assembly has received two republican proposals, from Bosnia-Herzegovina and Slovenia, and a complete draft constitution from the state presidency.

Because of its importance for economic reform, the government's proposal will be treated as an urgent priority and a decision on it is due by the end of March.

The proposal is based on suggestions made by the republics and provinces about an earlier, December version. Deputy Prime Minister Zivko Pregl has confirmed that the government is proposing "nothing that has not been proposed already by the republics and the provinces."

The government's premise is that socio-economic relations cannot be changed without first changing the political system. On the one hand, the government will change the role of the state by freeing the economy of undue

state interference while on the other it demands new essential prerogatives to protect the market and ensure economic stability.

The proposal seeks to abolish the protection of social property and all accompanying ideological restraints, give all forms of property an equal status and lift the limits on the ownership of immovables including the land maximum. The government regards as specially significant the introduction of a multi-party system in the constitution and the abolition of the provision on the vanguard role of the party. It also proposes abolishing the obligation of organisation on the basis of self-management and interest and considerably narrowing the present concept of self-management because of its incompatibility with market economics.

The efficient functioning of the single Yugoslav market, the government says, calls for a unified tax system and a common basis of the tax policy. In all probability, this is going to prove the most difficult task of the economic reform and a major test for the government. Slovenia, the most

developed republic, has already rejected this possibility and does not appear likely to change its mind. This could prove a main stumbling block because no change in the constitution is possible without the consent of each federal unit (six republics and two autonomous provinces).

The government also proposes important changes in the Assembly system. It wants the Federal Assembly to continue determining development and economic policy but would keep for itself the right to pass measures for its implementation, a change which would give the government more rights but also greater responsibility. Under the present constitution, the government proposes measures but the Assembly has the last word. The adoption of measures is thus not only slowed down but often paralysed by the consensus requirement.

With the same efficiency in mind, the government wants a new role for the national bank of Yugoslavia, demanding that it should be linked exclusively to the Federal Assembly and run by one governor instead of the present

council of governors made up on the parity principle.

To ensure the efficient functioning of the system's institutions and the direct participation of citizens in the life of the country, the government demands constitutional guarantees for free, direct elections, equal status for citizens regardless of their political and religious beliefs and an independent judiciary.

The prime minister and his team have often been criticised for seeking more power: they accept this criticism but argue that indeed they need wider powers to strengthen constitutionalism, the rule of law and legal security throughout Yugoslavia. On the other hand, their proposal and economic policy as a whole are already being widely approved in all parts of the country; there are also demands that Markovic be given a full mandate. Since Markovic took over when his predecessor Branko Mikulic submitted a mid-term resignation on 31 December 1988, his real mandate should be another four years, it is argued — Tanjug features.

LETTERS

Labour not political gains

To the Editor:

I AGREE with those deputies who, in a closed parliamentary session last week assailed the finance committee for stalling in their investigation of the causes of Jordan's economic crisis, especially at a time like this when the country and our people are trying to stand on their feet again. It is obvious that the country cannot move forward without knowing the causes of the situation it is facing.

But it is not fair for some deputies to accuse a number of their colleagues of provoking strikes and sit-ins to "achieve political gains outside the perimeters of parliament," (Jordan Times, Feb. 20, 90). As a close observer of those who have protested, such as the Petra Bank employees and the White Cement Factory workers, it was clear that their respective unions were the ones who adopted their cases, and together decided whether to protest, sit-in, or whatever you want to call it.

The case of the White Cement labourers who were laid off was brought up by some parliament members as an issue to be considered, and it was well-taken by the minister of labour when he decided to meet with the workers and the employers the following day. The labourers did not stage any form of strike, for they wanted to return to work, which they eventually did; and it was a union committee that negotiated with the management to improve their conditions. If their issue were not brought up in parliament, these labourers would probably still be unemployed.

As for the sit-in staged by the Petra Bank employees, that was a decision taken by the employees and their association. The mere fact that some deputies showed up to express solidarity with the employees' cause does not necessarily mean that they instigated the act.

Maha Al Hilo
Amman.

The meek shall inherit the earth

To the Editor:

THIS beatitude with its spiritual background has been modified by the late J. Paul Getty with his pragmatic outlook to read "The Meek may inherit the earth but not the subsoil rights."

Nothing is more truthful nowadays than this modification, and it is clearly apparent in the case of Arab oil. The Arabs have inherited and do own the land. They don't own the subsoil rights. Although this is bad enough for the Arabs, yet it is not the worst. We have been able to live with it albeit marginally, and accepting the little.

What should not be tolerated is the gradual loss of subsoil right that have started sometime ago and is now accelerating with such a speed that, unless immediately checked and reversed, will result in a total loss that could uproot us as a nation. This subsoil right is our indisputable right to our own water resources.

This loss started when we were deprived of our water in Lake Galilee, the smaller rivers of Palestine, and the larger part of our Jordan River and its subsidiaries. Then when we were deprived, during the last twenty years, of our ground waters by limiting our consumption from our artesian wells, by drilling much deeper wells in the same vicinity and by physically changing the direction of flow of the natural catchment area from our eastern valleys to the western side. Then when we were deprived of our rivers upper basin in South Lebanon.

Now, our enemy is still complaining from lack of enough water. Israel's per capita consumption is more than ten times ours. On top of that the Israelis are planning to bring one more million emigrants from the Soviet Union.

From where will the Israelis cover the new consumption required for this new influx?

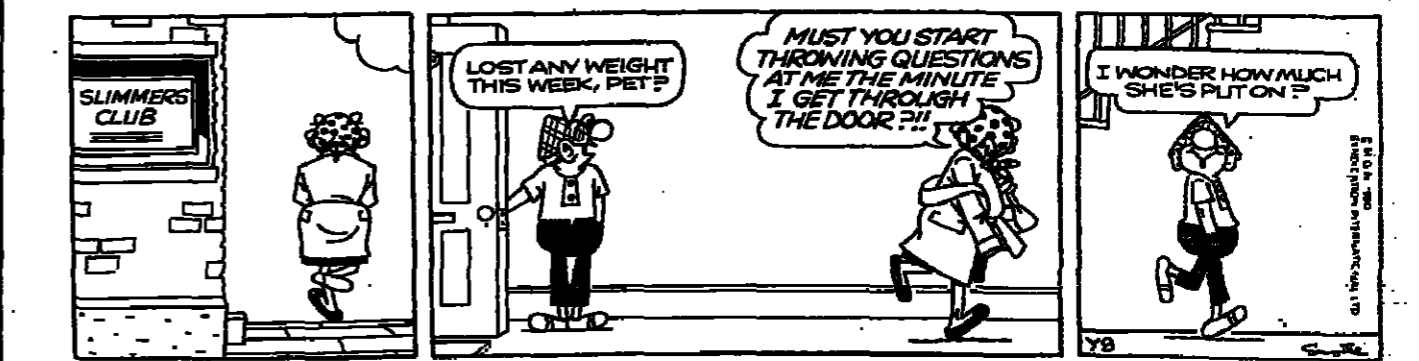
A small arithmetical operation will show that this will be covered by depriving another ten million Arabs of hundred per cent of their present requirements. Or by depriving twenty million Arabs of fifty per cent of their present requirements and so on till we are all deprived of the drinking water that we need for our survival.

M. Abu Sand

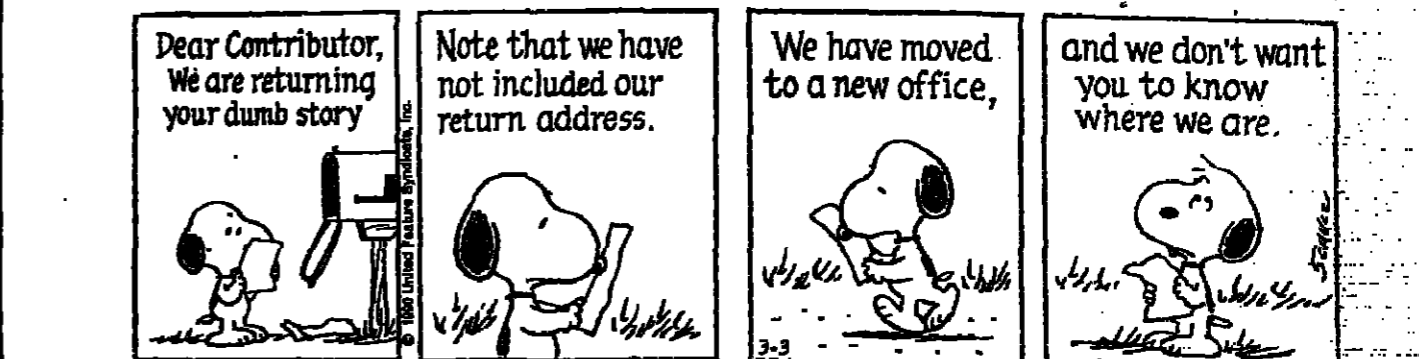
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



OUT OF FOCUS

97 dinars counting down

By Adnan Saad Aql

THE OTHER DAY, I was humming a cigarette off the office messenger. "Times are hard now," he wailed, proffering a carefully extracted cigarette from his pack. "I can no longer afford to offer cigarettes to anyone." Well, that's understandable from the dwindling looks of the pack, I sympathized as he leaned over to light the cigarette.

"If it's only cigarettes I can understand," he pressed home the point. "But, you turn anywhere, you pay through your nose."

The answer is simple, I reminded him: the plunge in the dinar's value against the dollar.

"Well, I don't care for what the dollar costs; I have never held one dollar in my hand in my entire life," he said. "But will someone tell me why we have to pay today almost triple the price of last year for local goods. Take zatar for instance. Last year, it was around 700 fils per kilo; now it's almost two dinars. And don't tell me we import it from the U.S."

Perhaps he should change his living styles to cope with inflation, I told him.

"Don't tell me," he got a little worked up. "I haven't had good old Bulgarian lamb for the last month. They say it's available for one dinar and 400 fils, but I fail to find any in the market."

But, there is the local meat, I pointed out. "Who's talking about local meat?" he retorted. "By God, I haven't bought local meat in the last seven years. It's too expensive for me. These days I settle for chicken when I have the courage to buy it. You think I can possibly buy meat for three dinars and 600 fils per kilo with my 97 dinars salary?"

"I swear on my son, I wanted to buy a kilo of apples today but changed my mind when they told me it was 600 fils," he continued. "Look at green beans; they used to cost 160 to 200 fils a kilo; now it's 600 fils. Onions which used to cost an average of 100 fils now cost 250 fils and then you don't find it when you want them."

I don't particularly like onions, I told him, but how was he managing his home and family of nine? "We would have been starving had it not been for my son who brings home about 50 dinars from an accountant's office," he replied. "But this will stop in two months when he joins the army."

"May be I will have to quit smoking and walk my way to the office and home," he was distraught. "It will mean getting up at least an hour earlier."

"What's really killing me," he said, "is that I feel so low when my children ask me when I can buy them new clothes. We have never been to the market in the last six months."

"Look at my shoes," he gestured to his worn-out footwear. "These are six years old. I bought the pair for three dinars, and now something similar costs eight or nine dinars."

"They tell me we haven't seen anything yet," he added with a forlorn look. "Prices will continue to go up but no salary raises."

"There has to be some solution," he insisted. "This cannot continue. At least I make 97 dinars, but there are others who make 50 or 60 dinars for a family of 12 or 15. How are they going to manage?"

Well, they have cable television to look forward to, I wanted to tell him after taking a deep pull but found that my cigarette had gone out.

World conference on Education for All: A global initiative to meet basic learning needs

ON the threshold of a new century, the world faces major economic, environmental, political and social problems, but a global effort is being made to meet these challenges through education for all.

In an unprecedented partnership, four agencies of the United Nations system — the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank — have launched a world-wide initiative to meet basic learning needs.

The four are the principal sponsors of the World Conference on Education for All currently being held at Jomtien, Thailand.

The goal is to meet the basic learning needs of all, that is, to equip people with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes they need to live in dignity, to continue learning, to improve their own lives and to contribute to the development of their communities and nations.

Goals for the year 2000

Despite significant expansion in primary education in recent decades, a growing number of children are not in school, the number of illiterate youth and adults is increasing, and the basic learning needs of many go unmet.

If current trends and conventional approaches to education and training continue, the state of education will certainly worsen, thus aggravating rather than solving global problems.

According to UNESCO, about 105 million children between six and 11 years old were not in school in 1985. Seventy per cent of these were in least developed nations and 60 per cent were girls. If current trends continue, the number of out-of-school children will almost double to 200 million by the year 2000.

Success or failure in meeting the basic learning needs of all people will depend ultimately on the actions taken within individual countries. A carefully planned, innovative, long term effort by each country is needed.

While each country will set its own goals, the conference will suggest targets for the year 2000. In general, these goals will cover primary education for all children by the end of the century. Because it is the major vehicle for basic education of children, quality primary schooling will be central to the new effort.

The second goal is to reduce dramatically the adult illiteracy rate. Currently, nearly one in four adults, or more than 900 million men and women, are illiterate. Nearly 98 per cent of these live in developing countries. The Conference aims to reduce adult illiteracy to 15 per cent by the year 2000.

Asia will remain the heart of the problem with nearly 60 million illiterates; Africa will have about 165 million; and Latin America and the Caribbean region 42 million. North America and Europe will have only about 17 million, although these people are particularly disadvantaged in their societies.

According to UNESCO, more than one half of today's illiterate

people live in India and China, which have 623 million and 229 million respectively.

Closing the gender gap

One immediate question is that of priorities: Who will benefit first from the renewed global effort? Strong arguments exist for giving girls and women top priority.

"Literacy of women is the most important single factor in the reduction of mortality of children," says James P. Grant, Executive Director of UNICEF. "The children of more educated mothers have a greater chance of survival and of healthy growth than those of the less educated or illiterate."

Literacy generally increases the capability and efficacy of women as individuals, enhances international educational benefits, and lowers fertility and maternal mortality rates.

The Conference aims to remove the disparity between male and female literacy by the year 2000. In some countries this will be especially challenging. In India, for example, 57 per cent of adult males are literate against 29 per cent of women.

Helping to meet global challenges

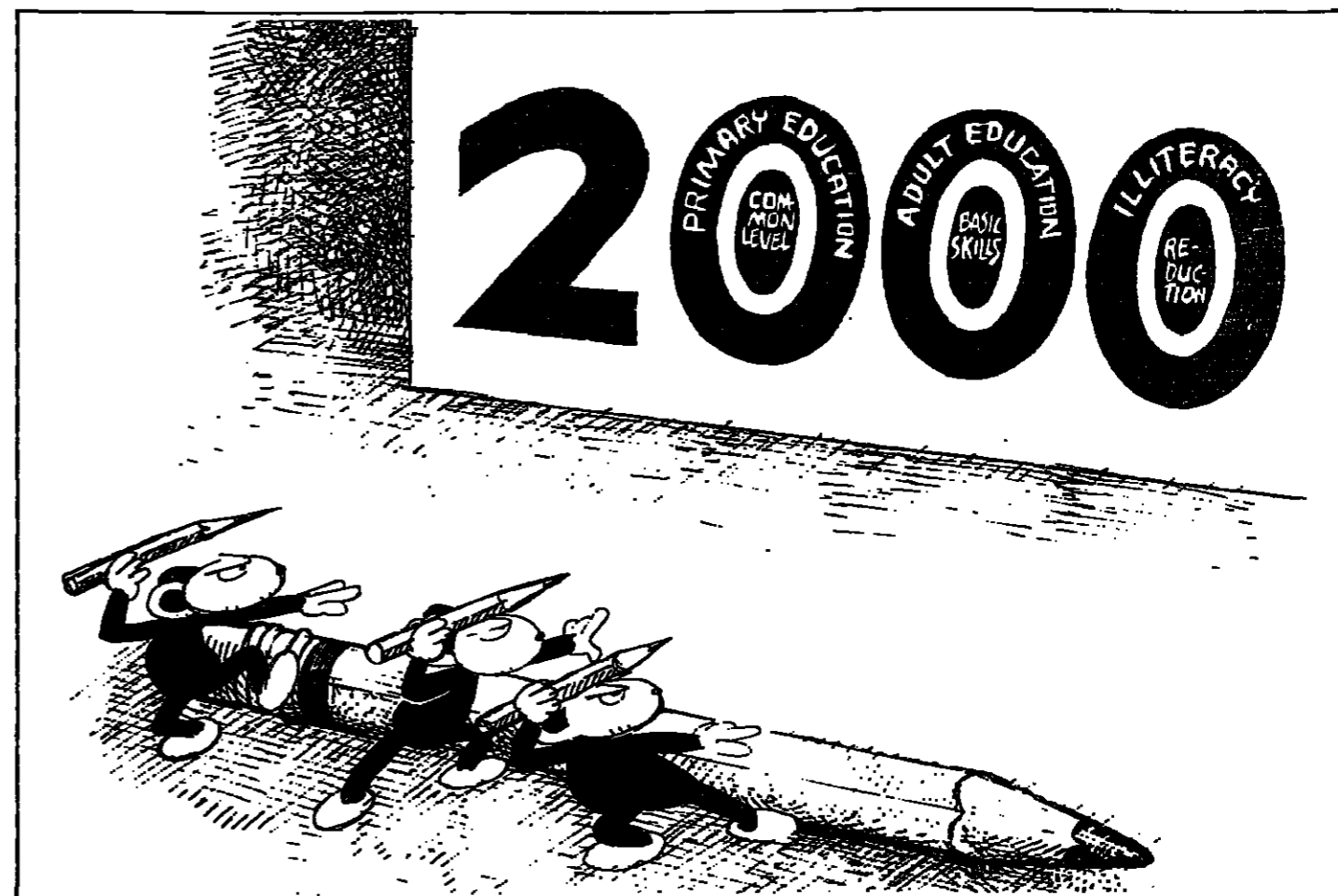
"Lack of education and training has deprived many countries of their most precious resource, an educated population," says Wadi D. Haddad, executive secretary of the Inter-Agency Commission of the Conference. This, Haddad points out, has in turn stunted social and economic growth.

The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirmed the right of everyone to education, but education — the empowerment of individuals through learning — is much more than a right. It is a powerful factor in meeting the challenges the world faces towards the turn of the century.

People learn to read and write for personal, economic, political and social reasons. In a village literacy centre in Haiti, a grandmother smiles wistfully and says: "My children live far away, and I want to learn to write so that I can tell them my secrets." A young woman, her face glowing with pride, remarks: "I want to get a good job someday." A thin, wiry man says firmly: "I come here because of what happened in the Duvalier regime. If I learn to read and write, that kind of government will not be able to return."

But if present trends continue, people will continue to lack learning opportunities. William Draper, the administrator of UNDP, says that education "is being short-changed... as low-income countries struggle with their debt-ridden economies." He points out that, between 1972 and 1985, central government investment in education dropped from 13.2 per cent to 7.6 per cent of the total budgets of all low-income countries except India and China.

The financial crisis in many developing countries is but one pressure on education. Major economic, social and cultural forces are all putting strain on efforts to meet basic learning needs — widespread economic stagnation and decline; growing



disparities within and among countries; increasing marginalization of populations; severe deterioration of the environment and rapid population growth.

Yet basic education can be a powerful factor in shaping these very forces and in dealing with their effects. It helps meet other basic human needs, increases productivity, enhances social and cultural awareness, and promotes international understanding.

Basic learning can help contain and even reverse the current threat of economic stagnation or

country are linked to behaviour that could be changed by education.

The only known "cure" for AIDS at present is prevention. People need to learn what the human immunodeficiency virus is, how it is transmitted, and to alter their behaviour to avoid contracting the disease.

Environmentalists warn that the very survival of our planet is rapidly becoming an issue of public education.

Getting more children into schools is not enough. A primary

general of UNESCO, points out that even among those children fortunate enough to go to school, standards are not even, and drop-out and repetition rates are high. "The quality of education provided in many Third World schools is sometimes so distressingly poor," says Dr. Mayor, "that even pupils who persist in schools for several years may never achieve an enduring level of literacy."

Nor are educational problems confined to the developing world. An increasing number of school-leavers in some industrialised countries are functionally illiterate, unable to realise their potential in a technologically complex society.

Governments, donors and educators from around the world are analysing scores of successful models and ideas to improve the quality of, as well as access to, education.

Meeting basic learning needs requires creativity and the imaginative use of all possible means and sources of education. Many developing countries will find it rewarding to turn to other channels of education, such as religious and community-based instruction. They will also be calling upon radio, television, newspapers, clubs and libraries.

A vast range of educational technologies from folk drama and traditional songs to television and computers will be used to teach children and adults and to train instructors.

In one successful example of alternative education, the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) is trying to educate children — especially very poor rural children — who cannot be reached by government schools or, once reached, do not stay in school.

Everyone needs to help

"Education cannot be only the business of public funding," says

Haddad. To meet the world's learning needs, everyone has to pitch in. Governments will need to find ways to fund the new vision of basic learning. Agencies, non-governmental organisations, communities, families and others will need to do their part.

In many cases, however, no matter how well a nation mobilises its resources, it simply will not be enough. Only outside help, of a significant amount and sustained over time, can meet the needs of these countries.

But more than money will be needed. Just as critical to the effort is mobilising the support of key partners, such as family, community organisations, religious bodies and the mass media.

Such alliances are not without precedent. The child survival movement, coordinated by UNICEF, was able to mobilise governments and a wide spectrum of partners ranging from political leaders to clergymen, to take on deadly childhood diseases and thus save millions of young lives.

Sponsors of the Conference are confident that the same impact would be achieved in education with world-wide consensus and a commitment to work together.

An example of such cooperation is in Jabalayah, a refugee camp for Palestinians in the occupied territories of the Gaza Strip. There, parents and local communities have joined with the American Friends Service Committee and Save the Children Fund (UK), two international voluntary organisations, to provide pre-schooling for 1,600 five-year-old each year.

There is a growing consensus among nations and international organisations that human development must be the core of any development process. Education — the empowerment of individuals through learning — for all people will prove to be the critical ingredient for meeting the serious challenges the world faces in the next decade and the new century.

Mahfouz's masterpiece is published in English

By Christopher Dickey

IN the heart of the world where Naguib Mahfouz grew up there is a neighbourhood of hidden palaces called Gemaliya. To get there from Cairo's bazaar you must pass the Husayn Mosque, where the beggars hold out leprous hands. From inside come the chanting voices of men in prayer. Follow the snaking alleys and twisted streets, where flies swarm among the crumbling villas, and women in black robes look out from the skewed sils of ancient windows as you pass.

There is no Baedeker's guide to this quarter. There are only the novels of Mahfouz to show you the way. The alleys, the houses, the places and mosques and the people who live among them are evoked as vividly in his work as the streets of London were conjured up by Dickens. Mahfouz, now 78, won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1988 for his stories about this world, the first Arab ever to be given the honour. Yet his greatest books — "The Cairo Trilogy," which span three generations of one Gemaliya family — have never been available in English. Now at last the first volume, *Palace Walk* (498 pages, Doubleday, \$22.95), has come out in the United States, in a good translation by William M. Hutchins and Olive E. Kenny.

"Palace Walk," first published in 1956, is the best of Mahfouz's work. He drew heavily on autobiography (like the character Kamal, he was the youngest son in a large merchant clan). He writes about family, and to understand the Egyptian family is to understand, more clearly than any political treatise can explain, the soul of the country. When chaos reigns, the family is a safe retreat, giving Egypt an almost grotesque stability as colonial powers and demagogic leaders have come and gone.

The family in "Palace Walk" is tested by its own internal tensions and by the political tumult of Egypt at the end of World War I. The sexual passions of one son and the political passions of another threaten to tear the home apart. But the mother holds everything together. At first she seems a pitiful figure — married at 14 and forbidden forever to venture outside her home. She "knew far more about the world of the jinns than that of mankind and remained convinced that she was not alone in the big house." But her strength lies in her intimacy with the family's secrets. "She had no regrets about reconciling herself to a type of security based on surrender," writes Mahfouz. Her one effort at escape is an act of pety that ends in disaster.

Mahfouz's newfound recognition in the West comes after a life filled with fame and controversy

in the Arab World. He helped invent the modern novel in Arabic; his books gained him critical success among his peers; and the movies made from them gained him an enormous audience. But the frank realism of his characters, especially the women, gained him the hatred of religious zealots.

Mahfouz has a fine eye for hypocrisy. He writes in "Palace Walk" of a preacher at Friday prayers: "He believes in two things. God in heaven and adolescent boys on earth." In 1959 his allegorical account of Muhammad, Jesus and Moses wandering the gritty streets of modern-day Cairo was banned by Egypt's Islamic scholars. And years before Anwar Sadat made his leap toward peace with Israel, Mahfouz was publicly advocating conciliation. Now in a new age of Islamic intolerance, Mahfouz, like Salman Rushdie, has been singled out for death by fanatical preachers.

The Nobel laureate seems unconcerned, living as he has for decades in the same flat by the Nile. Diabetic, his eyes weak and his hearing waning, he follows a daily routine that takes him from his favourite coffee house to his office — News week

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World Bank to double loans for education

JOMTIE, Thailand (R) — The World Bank, often accused by Third World countries of forcing them to divert funds from education, Tuesday pledged to double its lending for teaching projects in developing nations.

"Education is the key to development," World Bank President Barber Conable told the World Conference on Education. "A nation simply cannot hope to sustain economic growth and alleviate poverty without a literate and numerate population," he said.

The five-day conference, which opened at this Thai beach resort Monday, is organised by the World Bank and three United Nations organisations.

With 1,500 delegations, including four heads of state, it is

billied as the biggest of its kind. One of the most hotly-debated issues at the conference is how developing countries burdened with huge foreign debt can pay for new schemes.

"Foreign debt impedes our struggle for economic development, conspires against efforts to ensure education and denies funds available for education projects," Ecuador's President Rodrigo Borja said Monday.

Conable, peppering his speech with quotes from Plato on the ennobling influence of education, said the World Bank was the largest single source of external funding for education in developing countries. It has loaned more than \$10 billion since 1963.

Lending will be doubled to an annual \$1.5 billion over the next

three years, he said.

Poor countries should focus on improving the quality of education, making it accessible to all, boosting private sector involvement and diverting more funds to training engineers and scientists, Conable said.

The bank help countries set up policy frameworks with particular attention to education for girls, and science and technology programmes in secondary and higher education.

According to U.N. figures, more than 100 million children have no access to primary schooling and current trends suggest this figure could double by the turn of the century. Some 980 million adults in the world are illiterate, two-thirds of them women.

China's austerity programme backfires on government

BEIJING (R) — China's austerity drive has begun to backfire on government plans to raise funds, draining badly needed cash from bond sales, diplomats said Tuesday.

The 19-month-old credit squeeze has hit many industries so hard they can no longer afford to buy bonds the government sells as a major source of income, the diplomats said.

Falling bond sales mean the government has less money to bail out a growing number of money-losing state industries.

"It is a vicious circle from which there is no easy escape," said a Western diplomat specialising in China's economy.

Sales of bonds and treasury notes this year will probably reach 10 billion yuan (\$2.1 billion), down slightly from 1989, according to the latest edition of the pro-Beijing China Economic News.

"It is difficult for the government to redeem old bonds by issuing new ones because practically all domestic enterprises,

which constitute the major bond buyers, are short of cash," said the weekly, printed in Hong Kong but supported by official Beijing publications.

Started in September, 1988, to combat runaway prices, the austerity programme has slashed state credit to industry.

But now it has also begun to limit the state's borrowing from industry.

The credit crunch sent 800,000 rural industrial enterprises crashing into bankruptcy in 1989 and forced many others to halt production and slash wages.

China experienced its worst decline in industrial output in a decade in January, when total production fell 6.1 per cent from the same month a year earlier.

Figures emerging last week showed subsidies paid by the state of prop up money-losing state enterprises totalled 100 billion yuan (\$21.2 billion) in 1989, one-third of total central government spending.

The state's budget deficit for 1989, to be announced when par-

liament meets this month, is likely to exceed its projected 7.4 billion yuan (\$1.56 billion).

Total domestic debt is substantially larger, and many state companies have been unable to clear debts owed to other state enterprises.

The official China Daily newspaper said Tuesday the best solution for the government was to reflate consumer buying power, thus allowing companies to sell off stockpiled goods.

"The crux of revitalising the economy was to encourage moderate consumption," the newspaper said.

This would enrich industry, weening it off state subsidies and enabling it to once more buy government bonds, diplomats said.

But a surge in consumer buying could rekindle inflation, thereby undoing the austerity programme's main success. Inflation reached a peak year-on-year level 27.9 per cent in February, 1989, was reduced to 17.8 per cent for the full year.

Soviets make historic change

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet parliament gave overwhelming approval Tuesday to legislation allowing Soviets to own factories and hire workers for the first time in nearly 70 years.

In the early 1920s, Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin and his Bolsheviks retreated from their drive to implement communism and allowed private ownership of the means of production under the new economic policy, or NEP.

Tuesday's vote by the Supreme Soviet was hailed by supporters as a progressive step rather than

another retreat from socialism. It is one of the key elements of President Mikhail Gorbachev's economic reform package.

"This is an enormous step forward because it lays down the principle of pluralism in the forms of ownership and the basis of their equality and their protection from the government," deputy Alexei Yablokov said.

After a section-by-section vote of each of the bill's six parts, it received final approval on a vote of 350-3. Eleven deputies abstained.

The joint meeting of the Supreme Soviet's two houses broke

into applause as the total was announced.

The section dealing with the property rights of Soviet citizens, which includes the right to own factories and other means of producing goods, passed 354-0 with 13 abstentions.

A Western diplomat watching the session said it would be the first time since NEP that Soviets would be allowed to own the means of production. Soviets traditionally have been allowed to own cars, summer homes, and other personal property.

The law also gives individuals the right to hire others to work for them as long as they pay and benefits are in keeping with Soviet law. The private ownership of factories and hired labour are regarded in classic Marxism as exploitation of workers, and were one of the key targets of Lenin's revolution.

Noted political commentator Fyodor Burlatsky, also a deputy, called the bill a good start but said it was inadequate to pull the Soviet Union from its economic quagmire.

Vice President Anatoly Lukyanov, who led the joint meeting of the Supreme Soviet's two chambers, urged the legislature not to hold up the bill, which is to become law July 1.

"We need this law to go into effect fast," he said.

Lukyanov tried to bring the bill up for a vote Monday, but was frustrated by a lack of quorum the day after local elections in Russia, the Ukraine and Byelorussia.

On matters of trade the first store selling Western computers opened in Moscow Monday, sporting an American flag over the door and a huge red banner reading: "Business to business, person to person."

But despite the inviting sign, only those Soviets with hard currency can buy the computers, including IBM and other leading brands, and most trade was expected to come from Soviet research institutes and businesses rather than individuals.

"The potential for business is tremendous," said Michael Tsytin, a Soviet emigre and president of the New Jersey-based franchise running the Computerland Store on Kosygin Street, near Moscow University.

Kuwait eyes E. Europe

NICOSIA (R) — Conservative Kuwait, banking on huge oil reserves and an extensive marketing network in Western Europe, is exploring investment opportunities in Eastern Europe's fledgling free economies, officials said Tuesday.

Kuwait's Oil Minister Ali Khalifa Al Sabah would fly to Hungary next Tuesday on the first visit to Eastern Europe by a senior official of a major OPEC state since pro-democracy governments swept to power in much of the region last year.

Kuwaiti officials said that Sheikh Ali would hold two days of talks with Hungarian Industry Minister Ferenc Horvath and other top oil officials to discuss prospects for investments in downstream operations such as refining and marketing.

Kuwaiti marketing experts have made several scouting trips to Eastern European countries seeking foreign aid to restructure their economies after the collapse of communist rule.

"It is a market with great potential," a Kuwaiti oil executive told Reuters Tuesday.

"At present, most Eastern (European) governments do not

have a clear picture of what they want but we have to act quickly," said the executive, who recently toured East Germany, Poland and Hungary.

Sheikh Ali, who is also chairman of Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC), said last month that he plans to open small offices in each of the Eastern European capitals "to keep an eye on developments there."

He did that while KPC was involved in talks in the Soviet Union on possible Kuwaiti participation in oil development projects, progress has been slow.

Polish Foreign Trade Minister Marcin Swiecicki, in Kuwait for talks with government leaders, said Monday the Gulf Arab state had shown interest in investing in two refineries in Gdansk and Plock which have combined annual output of about 300,000 barrels a day.

Sheikh Ali's trip precedes a meeting of the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna on March 16 to discuss how to share out a buoyant oil market.

OPEC officials have said the impact of rapid changes in Eastern Europe will also be discussed

by the group's ministers.

Sheikh Ali will be accompanied by a high-ranking delegation, including the vice-president of Kuwait's Petroleum International (KPI), Nasser Al Salem, KPC European manager Abdul Samad Al Awadi and Abdul Fattah Al Badr, president of the Kuwait Oil Tankers Company (KOTC), the official said.

Eastern European nations have lost much of their oil supplies from the Soviet Union, which is experiencing severe shortages because of technical difficulties. Moscow is also selling more crude abroad to earn badly-needed hard currency.

With nearly two-thirds of the world's oil reserves and idle spare output capacity, Gulf states are a natural alternative.

Kuwait owns about 92 billion barrels in proven reserves and sells nearly 40 per cent of its output of 1.9 million barrels a day through an extensive marketing network in Western Europe that includes two refineries and some 4,000 filling stations.

Most of its foreign investments, estimated at around \$14 billion, are centred in Western Europe and some Arab states.

Rafsanjani defends the poor

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani Monday portrayed himself as the champion of the poor and said that the funds of a major welfare organisation designed to help "the deprived" have been misused.

In what was seen as a public admission of rampant corruption, Rafsanjani told officials of the Imam Khomeini Welfare Committee, a multi-million-dollar organisation, that its funds have "not been distributed justly among the deprived."

"Sometimes resources for the deprived have been used by the non-deprived," he said.

Tehran radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Rafsanjani as telling the officials: "Your duty is to see that these means are distributed justly."

Rafsanjani did not elaborate. But last October, the former head of another major welfare organisation, the Nabovat Foundation, was sentenced to death by an Islamic court for embezzling millions of dollars of its funds.

Corruption is believed to be widespread in Iran's bloated bureaucracy.

Legislator Hashem Hashemzadeh recently demanded tougher government action to stamp out "financial and administrative corruption."

He warned that "inflation, multi-tier prices, erroneous economic policies... mismanagement, absence of supervision and red tape... and breeding grounds for bribery, corruption, theft and financial abuses."

Rafsanjani also called for more jobs to alleviate widespread unemployment, currently pegged at 30 per cent. He admitted in January that factories are running at only 40 per cent of capacity.

His government Sunday

announced the creation of two million new jobs in the framework of a \$112 billion five-year development plan to revive the sluggish economy after more than a decade of mismanagement and turmoil.

The moves by Rafsanjani, leader of Tehran's so-called pragmatists who seek improved ties with the West, appeared designed to outmanoeuvre radical rivals who oppose his policies and at the same time muffle growing discontent by Iran's 55 million people.

Many are frustrated with the government's failure to improve conditions since the August 1988 ceasefire in the eight-year war with Iraq. Rafsanjani was elected last July and pledged sweeping reforms.

Opposition groups, including the Iraq-based Mujahideen Khalq, or people's holy warriors, have reported large-scale protests in Tehran and other major cities. The dissidents claim security forces have killed several hundred protesters.

There has been no independent confirmation of these claims. But official statements and newspaper reports have indicated that there has been some unrest.

Tehran residents contacted by telephone have reported that sporadic protests have taken place, but declined to give details.

Rafsanjani has in recent days repeatedly stressed that his government seeks to ease the hardships endured by Iranians for the last decade.

Analysts believe that he must provide clear progress in the next few months or face increased attacks by fundamentalist radicals.

They oppose his plans to privatise loss-making state enterprises, a major drain on the economy,

and secure hefty foreign investment for post-war reconstruction.

The anti-Western radicals favour state control of the economy and argue that attracting foreign investment will undermine the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Rafsanjani has lifted restrictions on a wide range of imports, including raw materials and consumer goods, in an effort to meet public demand and to boost industrial production.

But he said shortages of consumer goods in the final analysis can only be alleviated by boosting domestic production.

Rafsanjani also faces longer term problems because of a rapidly expanding population.

The current birth rate is around 3.4 per cent a year, meaning Iran's population will double by the year 2010. To keep pace, analysts estimate Iran will need an annual economic growth rate of four per cent.

Rafsanjani acknowledged the plight of Iran's poor and told the welfare officials: "The deprived people of our country are not condemned to deprivation to the end of their lives. The reason for their deprivation is unemployment, lack of investment and resources."

"We must put the means at the disposal of the deprived, and allow them to stand on their own feet and live a life of dignity," he added.

Rafsanjani Saturday set up a 24-hour hotline to handle complaints from disgruntled citizens as an apparent safety valve for public unrest.

He blamed high prices on middlemen who have taken advantage of the government's foreign exchange shortfall to import goods and sell them on the market at exorbitant prices.

West's low oil stocks may help OPEC buoy prices

LONDON (Agencies) — At the start of this year Western oil companies' petroleum stocks were at their lowest since early 1974, an international energy watchdog body said Tuesday.

"They stood at 64 days' of forward supply to cover demand compared with a peak of 82 days of Jan. 1, 1983, the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) said in its monthly oil report.

But the IEA said that when government stocks were added to the supplies as of Jan. 1 this year, there were 92 days' supply available to the 24 member nations of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The OECD states thus appear well-insulated against any supply hiccup. But the low level of their stocks may induce the companies to buy more oil for storage in coming months, which could help keep petroleum prices firm despite excess supply by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The IEA said OPEC output in January remained just above 23 million barrels per day (b/d), which analysts reckon is probably

around one million more than actual demand for OPEC's oil.

Although OPEC may have overshoot demand at present, world oil consumption is rebounding fast from a glut of the 1980s and oil analysts say companies may thus want to keep more oil in stock.

"Stocks are building," said Peter Nicol with S.G. Warburg Securities in London. "However, commercial oil stocks were low at the start of the year... and we suspect a greater willingness to hold stock compared to the mid-1980s."

"Thus we do not expect prices to collapse during the course of the year," he noted.

Stocks are down partly because cold weather in the United States last December drove up demand for heating fuel while some refineries had operational problems there.

The risk of more accidents in an ageing refinery system is one reason why companies may be inclined to boost their stocks.

There is also a belief that prices in the 1990s are headed broadly higher, although there may be dips along the way, which means that oil in stock gains value.

The average world price for crude is now just above \$18 per barrel, up from around \$10 in 1986.

Meanwhile, Kuwait is resisting any moves to raise the OPEC crude oil reference price of \$18 a barrel, the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Qabas reported Tuesday.

Quoting unidentified oil sources, the newspaper said "in-

tensive contacts" were taking place among OPEC members on the price issue ahead of the March 16 meeting in Vienna of the OPEC market monitoring committee. All 13 OPEC oil ministers are expected to attend the Vienna meeting.

Iraq has suggested that OPEC should increase the \$18 price to account for world inflation.

The reference price, pegged by OPEC since the mid-1980s, was endorsed at the group's last conference in November 1989. The group also agreed on a 22 million barrel per day production ceiling for the first half of 1990.

A report in the Nicosia-based oil newsletter, Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) Monday said Libya also wants a price increase, to around \$20-\$22.

Al Qabas said Kuwait remains adamant in opposing any increase in the reference price, preferring instead to see higher production quotas and a higher overall OPEC ceiling.

Oil ministers from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Iraq discussed OPEC policy at a weekend meeting in Kuwait. A statement issued after the meeting said the three were "in complete agreement that their countries should uphold OPEC's resolutions and its endeavours to stabilise the oil market."

No other details were released in the statement but Saudi Arabia, the dominant OPEC member state, has a long-standing policy of advocating stability and moderation for the oil market in the interest of producers and consumers alike.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY MARCH 7, 1990

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation.

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A restless and inquiring attitude toward conditions and persons about you can create some unsettling reactions today. Try to keep from getting on a personal level.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Welcome interesting persons from a distance and entertain them in your home. Aiding your attachment with essential tasks will bring you more affection.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Be sure you carry through with obligations already made to good friends. Follow advice of an expert about some home improvements.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A partner comes forth with a good suggestion by which you can be more prosperous. Your attachment will particularly respond to going to attractive places.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Home is the best place at which to entertain your select group of friends. Listen to really understand just what your attachment expects of you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Return social obligations to friends now in a highly particular fashion. Much activity at your home is now necessary to get anticipated and desired results.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Take members of your family with you when you go out on social

engagements. Be sure you only invite persons you can really trust into your home.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get off alone with a good friend whose advice is worthwhile. Get out in the world of activity with your attachment as much as you can.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be with friends now who will help you carry through with your social life. Let your family now realise that you value their practical needs.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A good friend shows you how to do your daily duties more efficiently. A day when your social life can bring you the greatest amount of happiness.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You need much expert advice before committing yourself to a new undertaking. Spend as much time in intimate huddles with your own household as possible.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make as many new friendships and acquaintances as possible. A time to entertain in your home newcomers you have recently met.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your home should be the centre of any confidential discussions. Put more pizzas into your relations with your loved one now.

THE Daily Crossword by Avery P. Bromfield

ACROSS

- Cap and agt.
- More likely
- Repose
- Church
- Longbox
- Fad
- Small case
- Show sorrow
- Firm
- Exhibition
- Make suitable
- NC city
- Centrality
- Defence
- Showy flowers
- Metalworker
- Old lit. coin
- Circuit
- Sch. subj.
- NC city
- Most stately
- Donor
- Before
- CA fort
- Expunged
- Soother
- or later
- Sun
- Most stately
- Wrights' NC
- Flight site
- Flag official
- Finished
- In union
- Phenast
- brood
- Mr. Turner
- Call to pigs
- Orkin or Ladd
- Warhol
- "Seal" — shall find
- Furnish

DOWN

- Mogul VIP
- Doctrine
- Pacific
- Gemstone
- Perform
- Abstract
- State (NC)
- Pound or Stone
- Furnish with new weapons
- Improve
- Coup d'—
- Fit
- Wesley
- Shinto temple
- gateway
- Crucis
- lost love
- Dummy
- Wading bird
- Ocean
- phenomenon
- Cow!
- Gratis
- Dr. Zhivago's
- lost love
- Bullying cries
- Assemblies
- Time periods
- abbi
- "we all?"
- NC state
- bird
- NC state
- flower
- Lost animal
- sauce
- Islands (near Scot.)
- spsa
- 56 Zola
- 57 Auto
- 58 Course
- 59 Beverage nut
- 60 Lend of
- lennis
- 51 Care for
- 52 "— of the Middle
- 53 Border (H. Garland)
- 54 Give the once-over

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS
1. CAP and AGT.
2. MORE LIKELY
3. REPOSE
4. CHURCH
5. LONGBOX
6. FAD
7. SMALL CASE
8. SHOW SORROW
9. FIRM
10. EXHIBITION
11. MAKE SUITABLE
12. NC CITY
13. CENTRITY
14. DEFENCE
15. SHOWY FLOWERS
16. METALWORKER
17. OLD LIT. COIN
18. CIRCUIT
19. SCH. SUBJ.
20. NC CITY
21. MOST STATLEY
22. DONOR
23. BEFORE
24. CA FORT
25. EXPUNGED
26. SOOTHER
27. — OR LATER
28. SUN
29. MOST STATLEY
30. WRIGHTS' NC
31. FLIGHT SITE
32. FLAG OFFICIAL
33. FINISHED
34. IN UNION
35. PHENAST
36. BROOD
37. MR. TURNER
38. CALL TO PIGS
39. ORKIN OR LADD
40. WARHOL
41. "SEAL" — SHALL FIND
42. FURNISH

DOWN
1. MOGUL VIP
2. DOCTRINE
3. PACIFIC
4. GEMSTONE
5. PERFORM
6. ABSTRACT
7. STATE (NC)
8. POUND OR STONE
9. FURNISH WITH NEW WEAPONS
10. IMPROVE
11. COUP D'—
12. FIT
13. WESLEY
14. SHINTO TEMPLE
15. GATEWAY
16. CRUCIS
17. LOST LOVE
18. DUMMY
19. WADING BIRD
20. OCEAN
21. PHENOMENON
22. COW!
23. GRATIS
24. DR. ZHIVAGO'S
25. LOST LOVE
26. BULLYING CRIES
27. ASSEMBLIES
28. TIME PERIODS
29. ABBI
30. "WE ALL?"
31. NC STATE
32. BIRD
33. NC STATE
34. FLOWER
35. LOST ANIMAL
36. — SAUCE
37. ISLANDS (NEAR SCOT.)
38. — SPSA
39. 56 ZOLA
40. 57 AUTO
41. 58 COURSE
42. 59 BEVERAGE NUT
43. 60 LEND OF
44. LENNIS
45. 51 CARE FOR
46. 52 "— OF THE MIDDLE
47. 53 BORDER (H. GARLAND)
48. 54 GIVE THE ONCE-OVER

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.6517/27	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1880/90	Canadian dollar
	1.6973/80	Deutsche marks
	1.9095/105	Dutch guilders
	1.4961/68	Swiss francs
	35.25/30	Belgian francs
	5.7330/80	French francs
	1252/1253	Italian lire
	149.57/67	Japanese yen
	6.1295/345	Swedish crowns
	6.5320/70	Norwegian crowns
	6.5165/215	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	404.80/405.20	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — Australian shares closed marginally weaker in another lacklustre day of trading. The All Ordinaries Index finished 0.8 point down at 1,580.4.

TOKYO — Tokyo share prices were pulled down by arbitrage selling in later afternoon but closed off their lows in modest trading. The key 225-share Nikkei dipped 54.12 points, or 0.16 per cent, to 33,791.08, after a 212.36-point loss Monday.

HONG KONG — Share prices closed slightly easier and trading was quiet ahead of Wednesday's release of Hong Kong's budget for 1990, brokers said. The Hang Seng Index shed 5.45 points to end at 2,933.23.

SINGAPORE — Share prices ended weaker but were above the day's lows on some late bargain-hunting. The Strategic Times Industrial Index rose 0.10 point to close at 1,522.55.

BOMBAY — The market drifted lower as worries about a farm-oriented budget drove buyers to the sidelines. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index fell 7.18 points to 678.70.

FRANKFURT — Shares ended weaker with the Dax Index closing 10.94 points lower at 1,822.22. Dealers said the market's dip had been exacerbated by weaker German bond prices.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed easier on lack of demand. The SPI shed 3.9 points at 1,094.7.

LONDON — Equities fell as the market remained nervous about sterling's vulnerability. By 1550 GMT the FTSE Index was 18.5 points lower at 2,212.0.

NEW YORK — U.S. blue chips gained on light buying linked to futures activity. By 1630 GMT the Dow was 10.91 points up at 2,659.91.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, March 6, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	Japanese yen (for 100)	117.0	117.7
U.S. dollar	670.0	674.0	Dutch guilder	449.0	451.7	
Pound Sterling	1103.8	1110.4	Swedish crown	351.0	353.1	
Deutsche mark	395.4	397.8	Italian lira (for 100)	109.4	110.1	
Swiss franc	448.2	450.9	Belgian franc (for 10)	33.6	33.9	
				187.8	188.9	

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Today 23 different people told me to have a nice day. A thing like that can really ruin your day!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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PRIGE
MUCPIE
LAWHER

THEY USED TO CALL HIM THE CREAM OF FIGHTERS—UNTIL HE GOT THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WAGON IDIOM VALUED SEAMAN
Answer: Why some husbands think about running away to become outlaws—TO AVOID IN-LAWS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Italy pledges tests at World Cup

ROME (R) — Italian organisers of this summer's World Cup soccer finals pledged Monday that doping tests would be carried out at all matches. Medical teams in each of the 12 host cities will test players picked at random from both teams after every game. Italian doctor Michel D'Hooghe, head of the World Cup medical commission, told a news conference. Tests will be carried out on three players from each team in the semifinals and the final, and on two players per team for all other matches, officials said. "The anti-doping controls are severe. Soccer, luckily, seems not to suffer from drugs — partly because it's a team game," said Leonard Vecchiet, doctor for Italy's national squad. The last case of doping at a World Cup involved Spanish midfielder Ramon Caldera, whose federation was fined \$13,900 after a test showed he took banned drugs at the Mexico World Cup in 1986.

Wimbledon to stage women's over-35

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Wimbledon will hold a women's over-35 doubles event for the first time this summer, with players such as former singles champions Chris Evert, Billie Jean King and Virginia Wade eligible for the competition. The invitational event will replace the women's plate, in which first- and second-round losers were eligible. Eight pairs will be invited to participate in the doubles event, which will be open to any player older than 35 who was reached the semifinals of the women's singles or the final of the women's doubles since 1970.

U.S. selects team members

NEW YORK (AP) — Andre Agassi, Brad Gilbert, Rick Leach and Jim Pugh were selected Monday by Davis Cup captain Tom Gorman to play for the United States March 30-April 1 against Czechoslovakia. For Gilbert, it will be his third consecutive Davis Cup match. He played in this year's opening-round victory over Mexico, winning two singles matches. Last year, Gilbert played in the United States' losing semifinal match against West Germany. His overall Davis Cup record is 6-2 in singles. Agassi will make his 1990 Davis Cup debut against Czechoslovakia. He played two matches in 1988 and three in 1989, compiling a 7-2 singles record. Leach and Pugh made their Davis Cup debut as a doubles team in the opening round victory over Mexico. In this week's world rankings, Gilbert is fourth and Agassi eighth. In the doubles rankings, Leach is third and Pugh fourth.

Colombia will attend World Cup

BOGOTA (R) — Colombia's national soccer team said Monday it will play in June's World Cup tournament in Italy despite death threats from a group seeking to rid local soccer of drug money. "Of course we will go. We qualified and we must go," said a spokeswoman for the Colombian Soccer Federation. In February the team suspended practice and play after a group calling itself cleanliness in Colombian soccer threatened to kill players, coaches and several sportswriters.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMARA HIRSCH
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GIVE THE ENEMY A HELPING HAND

Neither vulnerable, South deals. NORTH: ♠ K 7 4, ♥ A 8 6 5, ♦ K J 10, ♣ 6 5 3. EAST: ♠ J 10 9 3, ♥ Q 8 5, ♦ Q J 9 7 2, ♣ 8 5 2. The bidding: South West North East 1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass. Opening lead: King of ♠. When you speak of a falsecard, many players look for something dramatic, such as dropping a guarded king under an ace to induce a shift. Those plays turn up infrequently, and are often missed at the table. But there is a whole gamut of deceptive maneuvers that occur frequently, and are so simple they often sneak by unnoticed.

Note: North's jump to three no trump despite possession of a four-card major. With a perfectly balanced hand, and, hence, no ruffing value, the consensus is to forgo probing for a 4-4 major fit in favor of the value bid, although not all players agree with that approach. This hand is from a pair tournament. Some declarers won the ace of clubs and, since they needed a second club trick to make the contract, returned the suit. When East showed out on the second round, West shifted to the jack of spades and the defenders were a tempo ahead. They had to come to two spade tricks and three club tricks before declarer could red in nine tricks. Other Souths followed with the deuce of clubs to the first trick. Some Wests continued clubs to allow declarer to get home; most shifted to a spade for down one. One small group of declarers fulfilled the contract in every case. These were those who played the seven of clubs to the first trick, concealing their two lower clubs. Each West presumed that East's eight of clubs was a come-on signal, so they never even considered a spade switch. The club continuation was taken with the ace and a club back put declarer ahead in the race to establish tricks.

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Wilander upset in Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, California (R) — Mats Wilander, the ninth seed in the one-million-dollar Champions Cup Tennis Tournament, went down to a familiar foe Monday.

Wilander, playing in his first tournament since the Davis Cup in February, lost to fellow Swede and good friend, Jan Gunnarsson, 7-6, 6-4.

In other upsets, Alberto Mancini, the 11th seed from Argentina, was beaten by the big-serving Dutchman, Michiel Schapers, 6-4, 6-1 in the first round. Richey Reneberg, an American ranked 42, topped 25th ranked Czech, and defending champion, Miloslav Mecir, 5-7, 6-3, 6-3. Neither player was seeded.

Martin Jaitt, the tenth seeded Argentine, was defeated by Yugoslav's unseeded Goran Ivanisevic, 6-1, 6-4. Andrei Chesnokov, the 15th seed from the Soviet Union was also an upset victim. Chesnokov, ranked 18, was beaten by American qualifier, Brad Pearce, ranked 154, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.



Mats Wilander

Wilander, currently ranked 11, looked a shadow of the player who was number one in the world in 1988 after winning the U.S. Open. Errors flowed from his backhand and he allowed Gunnarsson to dictate the pace, playing defensively to drop the first set in the tiebreak, 7-4, with a backhand into the net.

Wilander made a brief rally in the second set, taking a 3-0 lead, but he could not consolidate his effort, as the big serves of Gunnarsson put the underdog back on the offensive. At 3-3, Gunnarsson broke Wilander on another netted shot by the ninth seed, then kept the lead with a series of aces and served out the match 6-4 with a smash.

"Maybe it was my serve that won the match," said Gunnarsson, who has played Wilander since their childhood spent in the

same Swedish town. "He's a nice guy and we're best friends so it was not so nice to beat him. But he makes more mistakes than he used to."

Wilander came to the tournament ill-prepared, having taken three weeks off before practicing for three days prior to Monday's action. His rustiness cost him against Gunnarsson.

"It takes a while to get back and this was not enough," Wilander said. "He served better than I expected him to and that got him out of a lot of trouble."

Mecir, once ranked in the top ten, was hampered by back trouble against Reneberg, and struggled with his serve. "He had trouble with his back and I was able to break his serve more than he held," said Reneberg. "He didn't look physically one hundred per cent."

Becker pulls out of Davis Cup match

HAMBURG, West Germany (AP) — Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion Boris Becker Monday pulled out of West Germany's Davis Cup match against Argentina in Buenos Aires later this month, a tennis federation spokesman said.

Becker's withdrawal diminishes West Germany's chances of surviving the tough match in Argentina and retaining the Davis Cup title it has won twice in a row.

"We regret Becker's decision but we accept it," West German Tennis Federation spokesman Jens-Peter Hecht said. Hecht said Becker called team captain Niki Pilic from Indian Wells Monday to inform him of his decision to skip the world group second-round tie in Buenos

Aires March 30-April 1. Becker is the top seed at the Indian Wells tournament that opened Monday.

Becker, ranked second in the world behind Ivan Lendl, also withdrew from West Germany's opening world group tie against the Netherlands in February but the West Germans still won 3-2.

The West German star has said that playing the Davis Cup in addition to the crowded ATP tour would interfere with his ambition to replace Lendl as the number one player in the world.

After winning a tournament in Brussels last month, however, Becker said he might consider a return to the Davis Cup team for the match against Argentina. But later, he said he would make his

final decision this week.

Hecht said Pilic would announce his team for the Buenos Aires match after next week's tournament in key Biscayne.

Michael Stich, who won his first tournament in Memphis Sunday, appears certain to be picked as Becker's replacement and could be given the second singles slot.

Carl-Uwe Steeb and Eric Jelen played the key singles against the Netherlands, with Stich making his Davis Cup debut in the doubles with Jelen.

Patrick Kuehnen is the most likely candidate for the fourth spot on the team to play Argentina.

Why do some people engage in thrill sports?

By Ira Dreyfuss
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cindy Chidester steps out of perfectly fine airplanes while they're still flying, so she can feel herself falling faster, faster...

"I just always wanted to do it," said the 34-year-old manager of Hartwood Paracenters, in Hartwood, Virginia. "Some people always wanted to fly; some people always wanted to do other things. I was always fascinated with heights."

Chidester figures she's sky-dived more than 2,200 times.

Psychologists and psychiatrists wonder why people like Chidester participate in potentially lethal sports. Some say the sports

attract a certain kind of person.

Researcher Frank Farley, a professor of psychology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, calls these people "type T personalities." The "T" is for "Thrills."

People with a "big T" personality type are almost governed by risk-taking and tend to be optimists who like "uncertainty, novelty, intensity, and lack of structure," Farley said.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, says Farley, are the "small T's" — "people who want a life of predictability, custom, tradition, the familiar rather than the new."

Big T's, says Farley, may like skydiving. Little T's, he says, may like sports that have you do the

same thing over and over again.

"You'd be unlikely to find a T-type as a long-distance runner... that would bore the T-type."

Chidester concedes it sounds a lot like her.

"I used to run, but it is boring," she says. "In skydiving, you don't have to hold anything back."

The kind of activity that attacks a big T is not necessarily the same kind that motivates a professional athlete, said Farley. For one thing, sports like football and basketball require you to have those boring practice sessions. For another, the risk of loss in competitive sports is a different kind of risk.

Navratilova bidding to regain top spot

INDIAN WELLS, California (AP) — Martina Navratilova too old? Don't believe it.

"Every time you lose, somebody says it's because you're too old," said Navratilova. "That happens enough times, you start doubting yourself."

"I think I've made a statement in these three tournaments. I can see all the work as paid off. I think I can still be number one by the end of the year."

So far in 1990, Navratilova, 33, hasn't heard many suggestions that she's too old for professional tennis. Of course, that's largely because she has yet to lose, winning three tournaments in the last three weeks.

Navratilova, currently number two in the world, hasn't been ranked number one since Steffi Graf took over in August, 1987.

Bidding to regain her top spot in the computer rankings, Navratilova went through a demanding off-season training regimen and skipped the Australian Open.

The hard work appears to be paying off; she's unbeaten in 14 matches this year and has lost just one set — and that came on Sunday during her 6-2, 5-7, 6-1 victory over Helena Sukova in the final of the Virginia Slims of Indian Wells.

Navratilova said she had as much trouble with the playing conditions as she did with Sukova because sand, kicked up by swirling winds, blew in the players' faces and settled on the court.

"I've played under a lot of conditions before, but never in a sandstorm," Navratilova said. "Easy shots became an adventure."

"She (Sukova) gave me a lot of junk, and I had a hard time with it. She started serving well and was not giving me a chance. She hit three winners off my serve at 5-3 (of the second set). I got all my first serves in, and she still hit winners and I lost that game."

Navratilova was ahead 5-2 in the second set, but Sukova then won five straight games, breaking Navratilova's service twice and holding service three times, to force the third set.

"At 6-5 (in the second set), she hit an ace, my feet just stopped moving," Navratilova said. "Then they started moving again."

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POSITION VACANCY

AID Project Management Specialist Family Health Services

The U.S. Agency for International Development has a vacancy for an AID Project Management Specialist (Family Health Services). The applicant should have a Bachelor's degree in a health or allied health field with four to six years of progressively responsible, professional level experience in health or allied health field. At least three years of this experience should have been in responsible development assistance or related work for other donor organizations, host-government organization or private sector institutions. Graduate degrees such as M.A., M.S., Ph.D., M.D. may be substituted for an equivalent portion of the work experience.

Interested candidates who believe they have the required qualifications to fill this position may apply in writing by submitting a recent biographical data and salary history in English to the following address:

Personnel Office
U.S. Agency for International Development
P. O. Box 354
Amman, Jordan.

Deadline for accepting applications is March 14, 1990.

Egypt players pelted with fruit after cup exit

ALGIERS (R) — Egypt's soccer players were pelted with fruit and rubbish by Algerian fans after the team were knocked out of the African Nations Cup on Monday.

Egypt lost 1-0 to Nigeria in a group quarterfinal match on a day when Algeria became the first country to qualify for the semifinals by trouncing Ivory Coast 3-0.

Booted by 65,000 Algerian fans, the Egyptians were stopped for 10 minutes by a shower of objects before being able to enter the changing rooms. The players walked off the field under heavy police guard.

Algeria was furious after Egypt announced last week it planned to pull out of the eight-nation competition because of fears of violence by Algerian fans.

But Egypt, who qualified for this summer's World Cup finals in Italy after beating Algeria last November, sent its B team at the last minute.

Rachidi Yekini hit Nigeria's

mediocre match, but the result

ensured the Nigerians stayed in

the cup after being thrashed 5-1

by Algeria Friday.

Algeria, though not always convincing, showed the efficiency of their strikers in a combative game with an Ivory Coast side whose best player, Abdoulaye Traore, was sent off after a clash with Algerian defender Fodhil Megharra.

Rabah Madjer, the game's outstanding player, was behind all three goals, starting in the 24th minute with a superb one-two with Djamel Menad, who thrust Algeria ahead.

In the second half, Algerian defender Kamel Adjas replaced the injured Rachid Adghigh, only to be forced to go off himself through injury.

It seemed with nine minutes left that both teams were content with a 1-0 score, which would have qualified Algeria for the semifinals and allowed Ivory Coast to qualify if they at least drew with Nigeria Thursday.

But the game ended with a two-goal burst as Cherif Elouazzani fired Algeria's second from a pass by Madjer in the 81st minute and Cherif Oudjani headed the third a minute later.

Injury setbacks for Eindhoven

Reuter

DUTCH champions PSV Eindhoven, being pushed hard by rivals Ajax Amsterdam in this season's campaign, suffered another setback Tuesday when international defender Koot was ruled out for several weeks.

The central defender underwent an exploratory operation for a knee injury Monday and PSV coach Gans Hiddink said Tuesday he was expected to be out for some time.

The news comes as a severe blow after PSV lost Brazilian striker Romario for up to 12 weeks with a broken leg in Sunday's 9-2 destruction of Den Haag.

Romario's spirits at least were

lifted with a call from national team coach Sebastiao Lazaroni who assured the striker he would still figure in Brazil's World Cup plans.

PSV, seeking their fifth straight league title, are just one point ahead of Ajax who have a game in hand.

European champions AC Milan are hoping for good news when their inspirational Dutch international Ruud Gullit sees a specialist this week in Belgium.

Gullit has had three operations to try to clear up a nagging knee injury and has not played since last June, but Milan hope he may be able to return to help them in their quest for glory in the European Cup and the Italian League and Cup.

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Interested candidates who believe they have the required qualifications to fill this position may apply in writing by submitting a recent biographical data and salary history in English to the following address:

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Ortega warns of war if rebels replace army

Chamorro offers amnesty to contras

MANAGUA (AP) — President-elect Violeta Barrios de Chamorro has promised total amnesty for contra rebels and the immediate abolition of the military draft.

Mrs. Chamorro, 60, who defeated the Sandinista National Liberation Front (SNLF) in Feb. 25 elections, said Monday it would be "ideal for the contras to demobilise before April 25," when she is inaugurated.

In Honduras, the contras Monday expressed their willingness to turn over their arms to the national opposition union coalition that Chamorro heads.

"We have already begun contacts with the civilian government headed by Violeta de Chamorro as a step toward our demobilisation," contra spokesman Alejandro Acevedo said in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

"The resistance fighters have the willingness to give their arms to UNO, but not until the new administration takes over in Nicaragua," he added.

Although the Sandinistas were able to reach a ceasefire with the contras, the rebels were unwilling to lay down their arms to the

leftist government in a decade of civil war.

The rebels, claiming the Sandinistas had betrayed the goals of the 1979 revolution that toppled the Somoza family dynasty, began receiving U.S. aid in 1981. They now receive only non-lethal assistance from the United States.

The civil war has caused an estimated 30,000 deaths. The Sandinistas say there are about 4,000 armed contras in groups inside Nicaragua. Another 12,000 contras and 42,000 dependents are living in camps in Honduras, just across the border.

Chamorro, trying to bring "reconciliation" to a divided Nicaragua, told the Associated Press in an interview, "the contras need guarantees to come home, so we may have peace. I want to do my best as president to govern with harmony, with peace, so we may forgive one another because we are Nicaraguans."

The president-elect said her victory "made everybody happy throughout the world" and that her new government has received

offers of aid from countries including the Soviet Union, which provided assistance to the Sandinistas, the United States and Britain.

Chamorro said that she expects a peaceful transition, despite rumours that some sectors within the Sandinista leadership, especially in the army and internal security, are reluctant to yield power.

Chamorro said there would be no jobs for contra rebels in her government or army.

Sandinista officials have voiced fears that Chamorro could give senior positions to contras who lay down their arms and return home.

Asked in an interview with Reuters if the rebels could expect any posts in government or army, Chamorro said: "I don't think so. We have to cut down all of that."

Chamorro said her hope, and that of the Nicaraguan people, was for a peaceful handover of the government on April 25.

Chamorro joined President Daniel Ortega last week in calling for the immediate disbanding of

the contras.

Ortega warned Monday of "national war" if the new government replaced the Sandinista army with contra rebels or members of ousted dictator Anastasio Somoza's National Guard.

Speaking to a group of pro-Sandinista teachers and students, Ortega said Chamorro must preserve the leftist Sandinista army and Interior Ministry Security Forces or suffer grave consequences.

Meanwhile, advisers to Nicaragua's newly elected government arrived in Washington to seek help for their country's mangled economy but U.S. officials said Monday that aid would not be immediately forthcoming.

"We want to provide aid as soon as possible, but we just can't put a timetable on it," said White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater.

"The aid question is being worked on currently," he said. "We have optimism that the European allies, as well as Soviet Union and Japan, are (also) willing to help."

S. African general: Secret unit planted bombs

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — South Africa's military intelligence chief said Monday that members of a secret defence unit planted bombs, were suspects in political killings and once planned to send a baboon fetus to Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Gen. Rudolph Badenhorst, head of the Defence Forces' Military Intelligence branch, was the first witness to testify at a judicial inquiry into allegations of military and police participation in death squads.

Opposition leaders claim the squads may have been involved in some 60 unsolved murders of anti-government activists over the past decade.

Badenhorst said the Civil Cooperation Bureau — so secret that President F.W. de Klerk says he was not told of its existence until recently — blew up a Pretoria store owned by an anti-apartheid activist; exploded a bomb at a community hall in a mixed-race township near Cape Town and planned to deliver a baboon fetus to Tutu, an anti-apartheid leader and winner of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize.

Badenhorst told the investigating commissioner, Supreme Court Justice Louis Hamms, the baboon fetus plan was called "operation apie." He said he did not know the reason for the operation, which was not carried out.

He said an internal military investigation started last November revealed that prominent anti-apartheid activists such as black mineworkers leader Cyril Ramaphosa, the Rev. Frank Chikane of the South African Council of Churches and Jay Naidoo, general secretary of the nation's largest Trade Union Federation, were on a list to have their movements monitored.

The military has said the secret bureau had 139 members and an annual budget of 28 million rand (\$11 million) and was engaged in highly sensitive intelligence-gathering operations in South Africa and abroad.

Gephardt proposes direct U.S. aid to Soviet Union

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democratic leader Richard Gephardt said Tuesday it is time for the United States to begin providing direct aid to the Soviet Union to encourage political and economic change.

"America must think creatively and act boldly," the 1988 presidential candidate said in a speech prepared for a meeting of the liberal Centre for National Policy.

"We should be investing in our own self-interest. And stability, democracy and a market economy in the Soviet Union are in America's strong self-interest," he said.

The proposal seemed certain to spark debate on Capitol Hill, where lawmakers have been pressing for increased aid to other countries emerging from the shadow of Moscow's domination but have not ventured to propose immediate direct aid to the Soviet Union itself.

Gephardt, a Missouri congressman who ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1988, proposed starting with a "food for freedom" programme to send U.S. food aid to the Soviets.

The United States also should waive trade restrictions with Moscow, including those on high-technology exports, and provide guarantees for businesses that want to invest in the Soviet Union, he said.

Gephardt noted an appeal by President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia, made in a Feb. 21 speech to Congress, to help his country by helping the Soviet

Union continue on its reformist road.

If Havel, who was imprisoned by the Communists, can call for aid to the Soviets, "the least we can do is listen," Gephardt said in a speech that also contained his harshest criticism to date of President George Bush's policy toward Eastern Europe.

"A stronger Soviet economy will facilitate the process of peace," said Gephardt. "How can the Soviets pull Red Army troops out of Eastern Europe if they have no jobs and no homes for them to return to in Russia?"

Direct U.S. aid is possible now because "the cold war as we have known it for four decades is over," Gephardt said.

The United States since May 1985 has sold 20 million metric tons of U.S.-grown wheat to the Soviet Union under subsidies worth hundreds of millions of dollars, but has never provided direct aid of the kind Gephardt proposed.

The Bush administration, in its budget for the year that begins on Oct. 1, has proposed an additional \$300 million in unspecified aid to emerging East European democracies, Gephardt said the amount should be at least \$500 million, "and that is only the beginning."

But he accused Bush of "a lack of leadership in this most crucial moment," throwing billions into the military budget to defend against "Communists who don't want to be Communists any more" while ignoring their economic needs.

20 killed, 300 injured in arson, looting after Ciskei military coup

BISHO, South Africa (R) — Twenty people were killed and 300 injured in an orgy of arson and looting following a military coup in the South African tribal homeland of Ciskei, hospital workers said Tuesday.

Doctors and nurses at the Cecilia Makwane Hospital near the Ciskei capital of Bisho said most of the dead and injured fell victim to drunken mobs that rampaged through the streets setting fire to hotels and factories and looting shops.

Four people were burned to death when they were trapped in a lift in a hotel that was set

ablaze.

Hospital workers said many of the dead and injured had suffered gunshot and stab wounds.

Others had been burned in the industrial suburb of Mdantsane, where mobs looted liquor stores and then smashed and fire-bombed virtually every factory and shop.

"Drink was a big factor," said one hospital worker who asked not to be named. "We are treating children as young as 12 for alcohol poisoning."

Doctors and nurses at the hospital were still treating the injured in a blood-spattered casualty ward early Tuesday.

Soldiers and police have not intervened to halt the violence, which erupted soon after the regime of Ciskei President Lennox Sebe was toppled in a military takeover Sunday.

Pretoria Monday rushed troops to the border of Ciskei, home to 800,000 people, to protect white South African properties near the homeland.

Coup leaders told reporters Monday a first wave of South African troops and police had deployed in Bisho at their request and added they had later asked Pretoria for further reinforcements.

Enrile freed on bail

MANILA (R) — The Philippine supreme court Tuesday ordered jailed opposition leader Juan Ponce Enrile freed on bail of 100,000 pesos (\$4,400), rejecting a government plea that he was a threat to the state, court sources said.

The former Philippine defence minister was jailed last week, charged by the government with involvement in an attempt last December to overthrow President Corason Aquino.

The 15-member supreme court panel voted 10-4, with one judge not voting, to grant Enrile's petition for bail, a member of the panel told reporters.

Enrile is charged with the rebellion with murder for his alleged role in the Dec. 1-7 coup attempt in which 113 people died and more than 600 were wounded.

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7,000 American troops may be withdrawn from Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Up to 7,000 American troops may be withdrawn from South Korea by 1994, reducing U.S. forces on the Korean peninsula to the lowest level since the Korean War, officials confirmed Tuesday.

The proposed reduction is about 2,000 more troops than has previously been reported.

Troop reductions are a highly sensitive topic among South Koreans who, 37 years after the end of the Korean War, continue to view Communist North Korea as

a hostile, enemy state.

A reduction of 7,000 troops would leave roughly 36,000 American military personnel in South Korea. Some analysts consider this the minimum until further studies are made of America's long-term security strategy in North Asia and the Pacific.

Senior U.S. and Korean officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Tuesday the possibility of a 7,000-soldier reduction has been fully discussed by both nations.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Seoul warns North over 'invasion tunnel'

SEOUL (AP) — South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo warned North Korea Tuesday it would face "a suicidal situation" if it continued such acts as digging "invasion tunnels" under the fortified North-South Korean border. "The North Korean leaders must know that they could face a self-destructive, suicidal situation if they continue such anti-national acts," Roh said in a speech to the graduating class of the Korea Military Academy. He did not elaborate. Roh said Saturday's discovery of a new secret tunnel under the eastern part of the demilitarised zone separating the two Koreas showed that the Communist government in Pyongyang might try to vent its pent-up frustration through military means. North Korea has denied digging the tunnel.

Nations urged to sign nuclear pact

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. President George Bush has marked the 20th anniversary of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) by urging nations that are not now signatories to join in the pact. In a written statement Bush called it a "significant arms control instrument" that has paved the way for international cooperation in peaceful uses of atomic energy. "It is essential in these times of great change and great promise, and of major progress in arms control, that the community of nations works together even more diligently to prevent nuclear proliferation, which poses one of the greatest risks to the survival of mankind," he said. "I urge all states that are not party to the NPT to join and thereby demonstrate their support for the goal of preventing nuclear non-proliferation," Bush added.

Baker to visit Namibia

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State James Baker will attend independence ceremonies later this month in Namibia on a trip to Africa that could involve him directly in a U.S.-backed effort to dismantle racial segregation in South Africa. So far, the State Department is reluctant to disclose details of what could turn out to be a nine-day trip to seven countries. Spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler announced only his stop in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia. Preparations were underway for possible visits to Senegal, Zaire, Botswana, Zambia, Ivory Coast and South Africa, where the white minority government last month ended a 30-year ban on the African National Congress and released black leader Nelson Mandela from prison.

Poll shows Quebec wants independence

MONTREAL (R) — Most people in Quebec now want independence for the province, according to a poll that reflects deteriorating relations between French and English Canadians. The poll results indicate a reversal in the provincial majority's long-held view that Quebec is better off within Canada and also springs from a new-found confidence among the people of Quebec that their province could succeed on its own. The survey conducted for Le Journal De Montreal showed 58.4 per cent of the people would approve of sovereignty for the French-speaking province while 26.7 per cent opposed it. The survey, published Saturday, was taken last month of 1,031 people in Quebec, both English and French-speaking. No margin of error was given.

15,000 Indian troops remain in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Less than 15,000 Indian peacekeeping troops remain in northeastern Sri Lanka with the withdrawal of 5,200 troops during the past two weeks, officials have said. Sri Lankan military officials said during the past week alone 2,658 Indian soldiers boarded ships in the northern Jaffna peninsula for India. The latest withdrawals left less than 15,000 troops on the island from the 40,000 who arrived over two years, said the officials who cannot be identified under briefing rules. An official of the Indian High Commission or embassy said the rest of the troops would leave Sri Lanka by March 31.

U.S. Republican chairman hospitalised

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican National Chairman Lee Atwater was hospitalised for observation after collapsing during a speech. A spokeswoman said initial tests were inconclusive and that he would remain in the hospital overnight. Leslie A. Goodman, press secretary for the Republican National Committee, said Monday Atwater had quickly regained consciousness after he fainted and keeled over as he was delivering a breakfast speech to a group of Republican contributors.

Japan to consider more funds for U.S. forces

TOKYO (AP) — A top Japanese defence official said Tuesday Japan is ready to consider increasing funds for maintaining U.S. forces in Japan, if such a request is officially made by the United States.

"If the U.S. side makes a request in concrete terms, we will consider" increasing expenses for U.S. troops in Japan, Yozo Ishikawa, director general of the Defence Agency, told a news conference.

But Ishikawa, who assumed the agency's top post on Feb. 28 when Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu formed his cabinet following a major election victory, said he was heard nothing "official" about the request yet.

Ishikawa was referring to a statement by U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney during a television interview with the Cable News Network (CNN) Sunday that he wants Japan to assume "100 per cent" of the cost for maintaining U.S. military bases in Japan.

In 1946, Zbigniew Szadkowski's parents were ousted out of the Soviet-annexed Polish Ukraine and moved west, to settle the emptied formerly German lands of Poland's new frontier.

Now these aging refugees and the children they bore on the forfeited German territories east of the Oder and Neisse Rivers are haunted by fears they might be swept away once again — this time by a resurgent, united Germany.

"They are afraid about the border," said Szadkowski. "These are people who lost all their property, everything, in the east. Now they are afraid their children will lose everything again."

"It is Polish history," he added, with a shrug.

Szadkowski, a middle-aged Polish army lieutenant serving in the border guard, is standing on the Bridge of Friendship. Behind him is the East German city of Goerlitz, in front of him the Polish town of Zgorzelec.

Below him is a dirty brown swath of the Neisse River, the natural boundary that was used to create a man-made border that divided the German city in 1945.

In a 1950 pact, East Germany confirmed Poland's western border.

Two decades later, West Germany also formally recognised the Oder-Neisse border.

But the quest to regain lost lands has lingered in some German hearts and, now that Communist rule has collapsed and the two Germanys are striving toward reunification, the muddy Neisse seems a thin and vulnerable line.

Many Poles are reminded of another Polish border, across which German troops crashed in 1939 to unleash six years of NAZI horror.

Poland's government is demanding that the Oder-Neisse border be guaranteed before German reunification, but Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany has refused to give an unequivocal promise on the border.

Different paths to unity tax East, West Germans

BONN (R) — The two Germanys have decided to unite — but the constitutional framework for a unified Germany is becoming a hotly-debated issue.

Politicians in East and West Germany are arguing over whether the new state should draw up a new constitution reflecting the divergent pasts of the two states — or simply adopt the one West Germany has now.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, his liberal allies, and conservatives in East Germany favour the latter course, saying the present Bonn constitution could be moulded to take account of any special concerns of East German citizens.

Critics of this idea maintain that without a brand new constitution, unification will simply amount to annexation of East Germany by the West.

The dilemma is highlighted in two seemingly contradictory articles of West Germany's 1949 constitution, known as the Basic Law.

Kohl and his supporters rest their case on Article 23 which says the Basic Law covers all West German states, adding that this will be extended to other parts of Germany "on their accession."

On Monday Kohl said East Germany should simply take over Bonn's constitution and laws.

"For us it is clear that the path to the future is the path of Article 23," Kohl said. "This is decisive for us — we want to have this republic, the republic of the Basic Law, and no other."

He has won strong backing from supporters across the border.

"People in East Germany always wanted to be West Germans," said Hans-Werner Ebeling, leader of East Germany's right-wing German Social Union (DSU).

"Why do we need a new constitution? We want immediate accession to West Germany under Article 23," he said.

But this argument has failed

to cut ice with Kohl's Social Democratic (SPD) opponents in East and West who find support for their opposition in article 146 of West Germany's constitution.

This envisages the possibility of West Germany legally ceasing to exist, stating: "This Basic Law shall cease to be in force on the day on which a constitution adopted by a free decision of the German people comes into force."

The SPD says Kohl is simply trying to annex East Germany.

Former Chancellor Willy Brandt, honorary chairman of the SPD in both Germanys, has backed the idea of a new constitution which would reflect the experiences of both states.

Wolfgang Ullmann, minister without portfolio in the East German government, said a new constitution should reflect his country's experience of the "total inhumanity" of NAZI and Communist dictatorships by enshrining a full catalogue of basic human rights.

A working group set up by East Germany's "round table" of government and opposition officials is expected to present an outline draft of a new all-German constitution on March 12.

The group would recommend human rights not guaranteed by Bonn's Basic Law, such as the right to work, to a reasonable home and to live in a healthy environment.

West Berlin's Tageszeitung newspaper reported.

The left-of-centre Munich newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung said a new constitution would benefit both countries, offering an opportunity to iron out problems with the Basic Law such as the balance of power between federal states and Bonn and the absence of any provision for environment questions.

"A newly constituted Germany... could combine West Germany's 40-year tradition of the rule of law with the democratic authority of the revolutionary change in East Germany," the newspaper wrote.

German unification stirs fear in Poland's western border

ZGORZELEC, Poland (AP) — In 1946, Zbigniew Szadkowski's parents were ousted out of the Soviet-annexed Polish Ukraine and moved west, to settle the emptied formerly German lands of Poland's new frontier.

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Kohl must face voters in December and, with polls showing him running just a few percentage points ahead of the opposition Social Democrats, apparently does not want to alienate conservative supporters.

Many West German politicians, even leading figures of Kohl's governing coalition such as Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, favour guaranteeing Poland's Western border before reunification.

But Kohl's murky stance has

fed feelings of anxiety in this town at the western edge of the land ceded to Poland by a defeated Germany — land that comprises one-third of modern Poland.

"The older people especially are afraid of this reunification... life teaches that history often repeats itself," said Zbigniew Daniluk, an economist and Zgorzelec Solidarity leader.

As World War II ended, more than 12 million ethnic Germans were expelled from newly Polish territories and transported west.

The victorious allies had allowed Josef Stalin to give the land to Poland in exchange for the greater territory he took from Poland in the east and annexed to the Soviet Union. Poles were never consulted.

There is bitterness in some German quarters about the severing of long-nurtured German ties to lands now labelled Poland's "recovered territories" — a reference to Polish prior ownership of the land in the Middle Ages.

Trepidation about German unification is widespread in Poland, but is particularly acute for those who resettled in formerly German territories after leaving the eastern lands seized by the Soviets.

Forced to repopulate the new

western region stretching from Baltic coast to Zgorzelec and south, these Poles have long lived with a sense of impermanence.

"This fear is well evident in the small (formerly German) villages which are not restored and are not neat and tidy," said Walery Wysoki.

"People, for all this time, have been wondering whether they will stay here forever, or not."

His father, who had lived in eastern Poland and was forced by the Soviets to labour as a miner in the Soviet Caucasus, settled in Zgorzelec in 1956.

In Zgorzelec, there is a sense of artificial division, a feeling that the town could so easily become united, and German, again.

The trolley rails that linked the two sections of the prewar German city are still embedded in the bridge over the river border. On both sides of the river the architecture is turn-of-the-century German.

The soaring cathedral is in Gorlitz, as is the old heart of the city. Zgorzelec, says Szadkowski, "doesn't have a real centre like every Polish town."

only.

In western Poland, graffiti demanding "Germans go home" have appeared on bus stop walls.

It has long been easier for East Germans to enter Poland on shopping forays than it is for the Poles to go West, and Germans have developed a reputation in Poland as rapacious consumers of scarce goods.

And yet a Polish-German familiarity has also been spawned by the border traffic — "we have shared a few vodkas," says Szadkowski — and a common sense of new freedom after casting off Communist rule.

Local poles remember that when East Germans swam the Neisse last year, seeking to reach the West through the fracturing East Bloc, the people of Zgorzelec welcomed them with dry clothes and lifts to the West German embassy in Warsaw 480 kilometres away.

Now thoughts are focused on whether the Warsaw government can wield enough international influence to ensure the Neisse remains the permanent border.

It is an emotion-stirring question. Solidarity parliament leader Bronislaw Geremek recently told a Paris audience that it would take a war to change the border.

Said Wysoki, "Simply, we will not allow them to do it."

COLUMN

Bob Hope wins big at charity raffle

PALM SPRINGS, California (AP) — Bob Hope was unable to attend a charity event whose host was Jimmy Stewart, so he bought five raffle tickets at \$1,000 apiece to help out. He pulled the grand prize. "Isn't that amazing? I never win a thing," Hope said from his desert home Monday, a day after learning he had won a \$50,000 BMW, a set of luggage and a trip to Germany. Hope was performing Friday night in Fort Arthur, Texas, and couldn't appear at the Beverly Hilton Hotel's "an evening of elegance." He bought five of the 100 tickets sold for the benefit for abused and neglected children. It would seem the globe-trotting entertainer wouldn't need luggage or a free trip to Munich. He's made dozens of overseas trips to entertain U.S. troops over Christmas, including visits to Germany. "You think you're kidding, don't you? I can use the luggage," Hope said. Asked what he would do with the car, Hope said: "I don't know. I bought it at the last minute. I was late getting into it so I bought five \$1,000 tickets," Hope said. When Stewart picked Hope's name, he said, "you're not going to believe this. It's Bob Hope."

Tomato seed from space sprouting normally

HOUSTON (R) — Tomato seeds that orbited around the Earth for more than 5½ years on a NASA satellite are sprouting normally, a seed expert said Monday. The seeds, which flew aboard the 11-tonne long duration exposure facility rescued by the space shuttle Columbia in January, appear to be in good shape, said Jim Alston, director of research for South Carolina-based Park Seed Co. Incorporated. "The seeds look identical to what they did when they went up," he said. About 12½ million seeds were placed in protective canisters on the satellite, which was launched by the U.S. space agency in April 1984. The canisters insulated the seeds from the temperature extremes of space. Alston said, Alston said the tomato seed experiment will give the space agency insight into the "storability of seeds" in space, which could prove useful on lengthy missions where astronauts must grow their own food.

Morgan to see daughter she went to jail for

AUCKLAND, New